

THE BUDGET.

On one subject, at least, if on no other, Great Britain is entitled to congratulate herself, as compared with most, if not all, other countries: her public finances are in a very much more satisfactory condition than theirs; which argues the possession of either greater skill and prudence, or the enjoyment of decidedly better fortune. While every nation in Europe is adding to its public debt, we are diminishing ours; while deficits, new loans, and fresh taxes are the rule everywhere around, a goodly surplus and reduction of taxation is the pleasing song our Chancellor of the Exchequer sings to us. France, Austria, Russia, Italy, Spain, Turkey, are under a régime of chronic deficits; and even economical Prussia, the Government of which was wont to spend less than it got, finds that greatness is a costly affair, and that augmented power and dominion bring enhanced expense in their train. King William's Ministers can no longer save out of the public revenues, and are compelled to ask Parliament for extra votes—which, by-the-way, are not granted with over-much cordiality.

Happier far than that of other Finance Ministers is the lot of Mr. Lowe. His lines have fallen in pleasant places; he has a large surplus at his disposal, and the only thing that troubles him is, what he shall do with it. Not that this seems to have greatly disquieted the right hon. gentleman; for, notwithstanding the many and urgent suitors he had for his favours, he appears to have pretty

fully "taken his own advice" as to what taxes he should reduce—for, of course, reducing taxes is the principal work of an English Chancellor of the Exchequer with a surplus in hand. The reduction and ultimate extinction of the National Debt used to be favourite themes with British financiers, in and out of office; but it seems to be pretty generally agreed now that the debt and the interests of posterity in relation thereto must be left in a great measure to take care of themselves. As Mr. Lowe said, the reduction of the National Debt is a most desirable thing; but what Minister is strong enough to do it? The present generation of taxpayers have such heavy burdens to bear, and are so decidedly bent upon looking after their own interests, that those of posterity are forgotten or ignored; and it would have required a man of even more than Mr. Lowe's courage to have said to the House of Commons on Monday night, "I have a surplus of nearly four-and-a-half millions sterling in hand, but I mean to apply every farthing of it in paying off the National Debt; so you need look for no reductions of taxation from me." We can easily fancy what a storm would have followed such an announcement as that. The advocates of every interest in the kingdom would have been up in arms on the instant; and the Chancellor's official life would have been in danger. Still, as Mr. Lowe is not insensible to the importance of reducing the National Debt, he has devised a scheme which, at a present annual cost of £190,000, will extinguish £7,000,000 of debt

in 1885, and leave whoever may then be Chancellor of the Exchequer in possession of a surplus of £3,375,000. This, after all, is not bad work; and when we remember that, despite the cost of Lord Palmerston's fortifications, of the Abyssinian War, and of the purchase of the telegraphs—collectively representing a sum of no less than £19,000,000—we have paid off since 1857 £38,000,000 of public debt, it may fairly be said that the interests of posterity are not being altogether neglected. It is devoutly to be hoped that no unlucky contretemps will arise to blast Mr. Lowe's hopes from the falling in of his terminable annuities in 1885, as the Russian War did those of Mr. Gladstone from a like arrangement.

The main point of interest in a Budget speech invariably lies in its closing section, for it is there the Minister tells what he means to do for the country—that is, when it is in his power to do anything for it in the way of tax-abolition. But before passing to that point it is worth while to note that the sources of half at least of Mr. Lowe's surplus are of a most satisfactory nature. He received £1,819,000 more than he expected, the final estimated income for 1869-70 having been £73,515,000, and the actual receipts £75,334,000; which is so far satisfactory, inasmuch as it indicates a decided improvement in the condition of the country, but is objectionable as being the largest sum raised by taxes in this country since the two last years of the great war with France. Then Mr. Lowe has had to spend £903,000 less than he calculated



"HIDING FROM PURSUIT."—(PICTURE BY F. WERKE, IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

upon, the figures being—estimated expenditure, £68,408,000; actual expenditure, £67,505,000; the estimated expenditure of the year having been itself nearly two millions and a half under that of 1868-9. There is to be a further reduction in the expenditure of the current year, which is calculated at £67,113,000, or 1,713,000 below the estimate for 1869-70, and £392,000 under the actual outlay for that year. So that the country will now be called upon to expend upon all branches of the public service about £3,000,000 per annum less than in 1868-9, the year during which the present Government came into office, and all saved through their economical efforts; while the revenue indicates a return to the elasticity that characterised it from the introduction of our great fiscal reforms till the disastrous season of 1866. On both scores—increasing income and decreasing outlay—the country, we think, may well congratulate itself.

We now come to Mr. Lowe's reductions of taxation, merely premising that, after all but fully meeting the charges on account of the Abyssinian War and one or two other matters, the Chancellor is left with an available surplus of £1,437,000. This he proposes to dispose of mainly in reducing the duty upon sugar and in lowering the income tax—both, it will be admitted, highly desirable measures. The sugar duties are to be reduced one half, or from four to six shillings per hundred, according to quality. Taking the five classified qualities of refined, and first, second, third, and fourth (but excluding molasses), the average abatement will be as near as possible five shillings per hundredweight, or a little over a half-penny per pound—not a despicable boon when we take into account how largely sugar enters into the expenditure of even the poorest families; and we hope every housewife will take care that the grocer gives her the benefit of the change. This will absorb £2,350,000 of the surplus. Then the income tax is to be reduced one penny in the pound; which will take away £1,250,000 more, and be a sensible relief to another class of taxpayers. It is worthy of note here, that whereas only a few years ago a penny in the pound in the income-tax was reckoned as equivalent to only a million of revenue, it is now found to represent a million and a quarter; an indication that the tax is now paid more cheerfully and more honestly than before. A number of minor reductions—the most important of which, perhaps, is the introduction of a halfpenny postage on newspapers and other printed matter (including MSS., we suppose, and other things not of the nature of a letter)—cover a further sum of £366,000, and leave Mr. Lowe a balance of £331,000 to meet any contingency that may arise.

On the whole, we think this a very fair distribution of the means at the disposal of the Chancellor of the Exchequer this year. A sensible relief is given under the two great heads of sugar and income tax, in which all classes of the community will participate, directly or indirectly; while a number of small imposts are abolished that weighed heavily upon individuals, were difficult of collection, and after all yielded comparatively little to the revenue. Of new taxes there is nominally—but only nominally—one; that of the tax upon firearms in lieu of game certificates. This tax may have the effect, as Mr. Lowe said (throwing a sop to the squire), of discouraging poaching; but it will certainly go far to abolish the nuisance of silly lads going about with guns, sometimes shooting themselves, and always destroying large numbers of small birds, whose presence is of vital importance to the farmer, though, as a rule, he is probably incapable of appreciating the services they render him. We think, too, that it may chance to prove the beginning of the abolition of the game laws; as, when a question of revenue is no longer involved, the general community and the game-preservers will be left to fight out the battle over the propriety of retaining these enactments in the statute-book upon more equal terms than heretofore.

"HIDING FROM PURSUIT."

THIS admirable little picture, contributed by Mr. Weekes to the exhibition at the British Institution, is one of those works which attract attention by the power with which they suggest a story, even through the medium of a single figure. The whole sad history of that period when England was torn by the rivalries and hostilities of the upholders of King and Protector—that harsh, rugged, and yet healthfully purifying time when men held their lives in their hands—is brought to our minds by this figure of the stern, pale soldier crouching in the gloaming beside the weary horse that has brought him into the seclusion of the wood, where he may evade the search of his foes and listen, with lips compressed and hand tightening on the bridle-rein, to the tramping of hoofs and the hoarse shouts of his pursuers.

SHOCKING COLLIERY ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF LIFE.—Last Saturday an accident by which seven men lost their lives and two were greatly injured—one so seriously that he cannot recover—took place in the Starlaw shaft pit, about three miles from Bathgate, Scotland, the property of Messrs. Simpson and Co. Shortly before noon a man employed at the furnace at the bottom of the upcast shaft saw that part of the ventilating flue was on fire. He and another man got water and extinguished the fire. Shortly after he returned to his work he heard a noise in the upcast shaft, and saw that the woodwork in it was on fire. He gave the alarm to the underground manager, who, when he saw how serious the matter was, ordered the colliers, fifty-six in number, who were at work in the pit, to come to the downcast shaft. Meantime the fire had spread to the framework outside the pit mouth and was being communicated to the downcast shaft. When the men gathered at the bottom of that shaft the work of bringing them to the surface began, and forty of them were taken to bank in about six or seven minutes. The other seven perished for want of air. Great credit is due to the engineman at the pit mouth, who, though in the midst of flame, stuck to his post and brought the men to bank. While this was being done, the rope attached to the cage got on fire, and the men who were being drawn up were in dread it would break. The last man who was brought up was so stupefied that he did not know when he was at the bank, and as it could not be seen through the flame and smoke whether anyone was there, he was actually sent down to the bottom again and again drawn up. The cage was then red hot, and he was much burned but is expected to recover. Another man, also much burned, broke his leg in jumping from the cage, and his death is expected. The fire was got out in the evening, and then men descended the pit and brought the dead bodies to the surface. One young man had a slight bruise, as if he had fallen; but none of the others showed any marks. They were found lying on their faces, death having been caused by the absolute exhaustion of air in the pit. Six of them were married, and, with one exception, they leave large families.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

A difference has arisen in the French Cabinet relative to the clause in the new Constitution which confers on the Emperor the uncontrolled power of resorting to a plebiscite to effect any change in the Constitution. Several of the Ministers demand that the clause shall be modified so as to make the sanction of the Legislative Body necessary to the plebiscite. The resignation of M. Buffet has been tendered and accepted, and there appears a probability that M. Daru, the Marquis de Talhouet, and M. Vivandière de Valdrôme will also resign.

In the Chamber on Monday M. Buffet took his seat in his old place as a private member, and confirmed the news that he had sent in his resignation to the Emperor some days before. His Majesty had accepted it that morning, M. Buffet added, in a manner for which he should ever feel grateful. M. Buffet did not think the time had come for further explanations. Reserve was commanded in the interests of liberty itself. Questioned by M. Jules Favre on the subject of the crisis, M. Ollivier said that all the Ministers were present at the reading of the *Senatus Consultum* to the Senate, and subsequently during the debates in the Legislative Body. The Minister reminded the House of his declaration previous to the vote of confidence, and added:—"The Ministry defends now the same principles, the same proposals, and holds the same language as on March 27. The Cabinet is responsible for the *Senatus Consultum* and the plebiscite, to which its policy remains unalterably attached; and the Emperor and the Ministry are in perfect accord." In conclusion, M. Ollivier denied that the Cabinet was a complaisant servant of personal power. Subsequently, in reply to M. Bartholomy, M. Emile Ollivier stated that the Government had decided that the vote on the plebiscite should be taken in a single day, occupying only the hours from six in the morning till six at night. On Tuesday M. Jules Ferry questioned the Government as to the closing of the School of Medicine, and protested against the injury to the students from the suspension of their studies. M. Segré explained the circumstances of the suspension, which was only ordered after four fruitless attempts at conciliation had been made, and which had been with the assent of the professors of the faculty. He added that the decision would be maintained, and that if the disturbances recommenced on the resumption of the lectures the school would be dismissed. M. Pelletan maintained that the Minister had no right to close the University.

In the Senate, on Tuesday, the report of the Committee on the *Senatus Consultum* was presented. The Committee reject the proposal that the Senate should be elected by universal suffrage, as being a republican method incompatible with monarchical institutions; but they consider the right of appeal to the people as essentially inherent in Democratic government. They therefore approve of the "conservation" of the *Senatus Consultum* by a plebiscite.

M. Mangini has been elected at Lyons by 15,348 votes, M. Ulric de Fonvielle polling 7827. M. Mangini belongs to the Left Centre.

On Monday numerous seditious placards were posted in various quarters of Paris. Men in blouses were stationed before them, who declared that they should not be torn down. Nevertheless they were all removed by the police, and thirty persons who attempted to oppose the officials were arrested.

A Corsican paper, *L'Avenir de Corse*, publishes a letter from Prince Pierre Bonaparte, in which the writer expresses his gratitude for the expressions of sympathy he has received from numerous correspondents, French and foreign. Among those correspondents are many noble women, he says, who "have deigned to shed the balm of their sweet words upon him." The Prince expresses the hope that before his powers leave him he may prove otherwise than by words that he has never been wanting in the will to render himself useful to his country and every good cause.

The Commission of Inquiry on the bearing of the treaties of commerce on manufacturing interests has decided, at the request of the English Ambassador, to receive evidence from two English manufacturers as well as from French manufacturers.

What is likely to prove a very serious strike has commenced among the French ironworkers. On Tuesday 500 men from Fourchambault forced their way into the ironworks at Forteron and stopped all the machines. It is said that the strike is extending in all the works in the basin of the Loire. Affairs are still unsettled at Creuzot.

SPAIN.

The particulars received of the outbreak against the conscription at Gracia, near Barcelona, show that the struggle between the insurgents and the troops was a very serious affair, and attended with considerable loss of life. Barcelona is occupied by the military, and the troops are in pursuit of the fugitives. Senor Rivero informed the Cortes, last Saturday, that, according to the Government despatches which had been received, the struggle at Gracia and Barcelona was at an end. Other advices mention that the engagement at Gracia lasted two hours, the troops having commenced the attack at half-past four in the morning, on the 8th inst., and at half-past six being completely masters of the situation. The drawing for the conscription is now said to have terminated throughout Spain. A telegram from Bayonne announces the entrance into Spain of several Carlist chiefs, which seems to portend another Carlist movement.

A court-martial has assembled for the trial of the Duke de Montpensier. Its members are Generals Yzquierdo, Eassarra, Peralta, Burgos, Enrile, Saez, and Negros. The Public Prosecutor asked the Court to condemn the prisoner to one month's sojourn at a distance of ten leagues from Madrid and to pay an indemnity to the family of Don Enrique of 30,000*frs.* The Court has returned a verdict in accordance with this requisition.

PORTUGAL.

Senhor Palmeiro Pinto has been elected President, and Senhor Sampaio Vico-President of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Government is about to send further reinforcements to Mozambique, in consequence of the bad news respecting the Zambesi expedition.

ITALY.

In last Saturday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the Minister of the Interior introduced a bill to authorise the provisional exercise of the Budget until the 21st of next month. He stated that the pending debates on the financial questions were not likely to terminate before July, and he besought the House to postpone all important speeches until the consideration of the Estimates for 1871, which would soon be laid before them. On Monday a debate arose on the bill. Signor Ferrari, a member of the Left, condemned the recent revolutionary attempts, and Signor Lanza, in reply, said he trusted that the attempts would not be renewed, adding that if they were they would be repressed. Signor Pisanello expressed his conviction that the Government would show no weakness in putting down any revolutionary rising. Signor Billia, on the other hand, maintained that the cause of the disturbances was the system of the Government. His speech was frequently interrupted by the President, who several times called him to order. Signor Civinini moved the close of this political discussion, which, he said, was not on the notice paper; but Signor Lanza demanded that after the speech of Signor Billia the Chamber should give a vote affirming the principle of Government. Signori Civinini, Nicotera, and Guerrieri maintained that such a vote was not necessary. The provisional Budget was approved by 178 votes against 41.

ROME.

A telegram from Rome, dated Tuesday, states that in the General Congregation of the Ecumenical Council the voting on the remaining amendments to the *Schœma de Fide* terminated.

Subsequently the entire text of the *Constitutio de Fide* was put to the vote, when 515 Bishops unreservedly, and 83 conditionally, voted for the measure as it stands, making altogether 598 ayes. Not a single contrary vote was given.

It is stated that the Vatican, after consulting the Spanish Bishops, has decided that the Spanish clergy cannot take the oath of fidelity to the Constitution. The date of the third Session of the Council is not yet fixed.

AUSTRIA.

By an autograph letter of the Emperor published on Wednesday morning, Dr. Giskra, Herr Brestel, and Dr. Herbst are relieved of their functions as Ministers and appointed Privy Counsellors. Another autograph letter decrees the following appointments of Ministers of the new Cisleithan Cabinet:—Count Potocki, Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture; Count Taaffe, Minister of Interior and of War; Counsellor Tschabuschnigg, Minister of Justice and of Public Worship; Counsellor Distler, Minister of Finance; Counsellor de Pretis-Cagnolo, Minister of Commerce.

ROUMANIA.

Prince Charles has addressed a Message to the Chambers informing them that he has accepted the resignation of the Ministry, and that both Houses are again adjourned for a week to allow of a new Cabinet being constituted.

EGYPT.

The Egyptian plan relative to Consular jurisdiction has been slightly modified by Nubar Pacha, and has subsequently been approved by the Porte. It is in substance identical with the plan adopted by the International Commission. The Russian Government has accepted the judicial reforms as proposed by the International Commission. Nevertheless, while recognising the necessity of a reform in criminal matters, it defers a formal assent until the presentation of the code of penal legislation. This code will be completed shortly, and will be communicated to the Powers who were represented at the Commission.

THE UNITED STATES.

A suit was commenced, on Tuesday, in the United States Circuit Court, on behalf of the English shareholders against the directors of the Erie Railway. It is based on the charge that the directors have illegally obtained the control over the company's affairs, and have unwarrantably involved them in disastrous obligations. The complainants apply for an injunction against the directors until the suit shall be decided. The defendants must file their answer by May 2 next.

MEXICO.

Advices from Mexico state that the Revolutionists are again active in the northern provinces.

CUBA.

Cuban accounts deny that the insurrection has ended, and assert that the insurgents, with a large force, are acting on the aggressive in the Lastimas districts.

PARAGUAY.

The steamer Tycho Brahe, thirty days from Montevideo, brings news of the termination of the Paraguayan war and the death of Lopez. General Camara marched from Concepcion and defeated Lopez at Aquibana. Lopez refused to surrender, and fought till the remnant of his army were made prisoners. Resquin and other Paraguayan Generals and officers surrendered. Caballero was killed. The mother, sister, and children of Lopez, as well as Mrs. Lynch, were captured. General Camara has been made Viscount of Pelotas.

CANADA.

In consequence of the apprehension of a Fenian raid, several militia regiments on the eastern frontier have been placed under arms, and have received orders to be ready for immediate service. Very little alarm or excitement has been occasioned by the threatened incursion.

In the Dominion House of Commons, on the 8th inst., the Finance Minister introduced his Budget. The ordinary expenditure is shown to be in excess of the revenue. It is proposed to increase the latter by imposing light duties on flour and grain, 50*cts.* per ton on coal, 5*cts.* per lb. on hops, and 5*cts.* per bushel on salt, but the latter shall remain free of duty if imported from England or any British possession. This proposed salt duty is merely a protective measure against the United States. A charge of five per cent is to be added to all the present ad valorem duties—that is to say, on the duty, not on the value of the goods. It is further proposed to increase the wine duties by 20 to 25 per cent, ad valorem, per gallon. Duties are to be calculated on the invoiced value. The foregoing and other tariff changes are expected to add two millions of dollars to the revenue. The Minister of Finance also stated that the Government intended to disregard the opinion of the law officers of England as to the appropriation of the International Railway Loan of last year.

INDIA.

In the sitting of the Legislative Council on the 7th inst. the Income Tax Bill was passed, on the ground of absolute necessity, but not without considerable opposition. The Council also passed the bill raising the limit of investments on the part of the currency department in Government Securities. The Budget is being severely criticised, and the press unanimously condemn it.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

News from Natal to Feb. 24 states that Governor Keate had finally settled the boundary question of the Transvaal and Free State Republics, but his award was not known. He was next about to arrange the boundary question between the Free State and Zululand. Heavy and general rains had prevailed, which were doing much good to the crops. Fine quartz specimens continued arriving at Capetown from the Tautin gold-fields. The Cape Colony House of Assembly had rejected the Governor's reform bill. It was considered that the present bill had for its object the destruction of the present Constitution of the colony and the substitution of increased personal power of the Governor. The Estimates refused in the last Session had passed. Large majorities in both Houses of the Legislature were against the introduction of party government and against the Imperial Government's policy of withdrawal of the troops.

THE LONDON CO-OPERATIVE WATCH-MAKING COMPANY.—On Monday evening a crowded meeting of the workmen engaged in the various branches of the clock and watch making trade in Clerkenwell was held, at the Amwell-street School room, Pentonville, for the purpose of considering the advisability of the trade, as a body, supporting the above company, established by operative watchmakers to promote the production of genuine London work. Mr. C. Young, who occupied the chair, opened the proceedings by declaring his conviction that the only way to retrieve the present depressed state of the trade, owing to the large importation of foreign watches duty free, was by the workmen combining together in a co-operative company to produce a watch equal in every respect to the best foreign watches imported, and at as low a price. There were three points upon which he believed there was no difference of opinion—viz., that if the watchmaking trade was to be kept in this country the whole system of production must be changed; that watches should be of one uniform gauge; and that all foreign watches sold in England should have the maker's name, and thus prevent them being palmed off on the public by unprincipled dealers as English lever watches. The meeting was then addressed by Mr. Gannoy, who described the system of watchmaking by machinery as practised in America. It was acknowledged by all that the Clerkenwell watchmakers were the best workmen in the world, and the company were prepared to supply a silver lever 3 plate watch, jewelled in four holes, for 5*shs.* The watch had been designed and produced by a committee, composed of the very best workmen in every branch of the trade, and every part of the watch would be made in one building, thus effecting a great saving in time and expense upon the present system. Messrs. Newton, Holdsworth, Jones, Hill-top, Mead, and others addressed the meeting in support of its objects, and the following resolutions were submitted for approval:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the union of labour and capital under a co-operative system of co-operation is essential to the maintenance of the watch trade in Clerkenwell." "That watches should be made by a uniform gauge, and that every watch should bear the maker's name." "That the meeting pledges itself to support the London and Clerkenwell Operative Watchmakers Manufacturing Company."

THE BUDGET RESOLUTIONS.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer submitted the following resolution to the Committee of Ways and Means in the House of Commons on Monday night: "That towards raising the supply granted to her Majesty, on and after the under-mentioned dates, in lieu of the duties of Customs now charged on the articles under-mentioned, the following duties of customs shall be charged thereon, on importation into Great Britain or Ireland, viz.: On and after May 2, 1870, sugar—viz., candy, brown or white, refined sugar, or sugar rendered by any process equal in quality thereto, and manufactures of refined sugar, 6s. per cwt. On and after April 13, 1870, sugar not equal to refined—first class, 5s. 8d. per cwt.; second class, 5s. 3d. per cwt.; third class, 4s. 9d. per cwt.; fourth class, including cane juice, 4s. per cwt.; molasses, 1s. 9d. per cwt.; paste of almonds, 4s. 8d. per cwt.; dried cherries, 1s. 8d. per cwt.; dry comfits, 4s. 8d. per cwt.; confectionery, not otherwise enumerated, 4s. 8d. per cwt.; preserved ginger, 1s. 8d. per cwt.; marmalade, 4s. 8d. per cwt.; succades, including all fruits and vegetables preserved in sugar, not otherwise enumerated, 4s. 8d. per cwt.; and that the said duties shall be paid on the weights ascertained at landing." In the second resolution the drawbacks on sugar refined in Great Britain and exported or deposited in any approved warehouse are arranged. The scale is 6s. per cwt. on refined sugar in loaf or lumps duly refined, and of uniform whiteness; 5s. 9d. upon refined sugar not inferior to standard 2; 5s. 8d. for refined sugar not inferior to standard 3; 5s. 8d., standard 4; 4s. 9d., standard 5; and 4s., standard 6. Sugar refined by the centrifugal process is charged 6s. per cwt., provided it be not inferior to standard 1.

The rates of excise for sugars made in the United Kingdom are indicated in the third resolution, as follows: "On and after May 2, 1870, candy, brown or white, refined sugar, or sugar rendered by any process equal in quality thereto, and manufactures of refined sugar, 6s. per cwt.; on and after April 13, 1870, sugar not equal to refined, first class, 5s. 8d. per cwt.; second class, 5s. 3d. per cwt.; third class, 4s. 9d. per cwt.; fourth class, 4s. per cwt.; molasses, 1s. 9d. per cwt." The fourth and fifth resolutions fix the excise duty upon sugar used in brewing and the customs duty on tea at 7s. 6d. per cwt. and 6d. per pound respectively. The stipulations regarding the income tax are contained in the sixth resolution. They are as follow: "For every 20s. of the annual value or amount of all property, profits, and gains (except those chargeable under schedule B of the said Act), the rate of duty of 4d. And for and in respect of the occupation of lands, tenements, hereditaments, and heritages chargeable under schedule B of the said Act, for every 20s. of the annual value thereof, in England, the rate of duty of 2d., and in Scotland and Ireland respectively the rate of duty of 1d., subject to the provisions contained in section 3 of the Act of 26th Vict., cap. 22, for the exemption of persons whose whole income from every source is under £100 a year, and relief of those whose income is under £200 a year."

Licenses to carry arms are regulated by the seventh resolution, which runs thus:—"That towards raising the supply granted to her Majesty, there shall be granted and paid, on and after April 6, 1870, upon a license to be taken out annually by every person who shall use or carry a firearm of any description, or an air-gun, or any other kind of gun, from which any shot, bullet, or other missile can be discharged, the sum of £1; and that on April 6, 1870, the Excise duties on licenses in Great Britain, and certificates in Ireland, to take or kill game, imposed by the Act of the 23rd and 24th years of the reign of her Majesty, c. 90, shall cease to be payable."

Hawkers' licenses are considered in the eighth resolution, which provides for the abolition of the duties payable upon licenses to hawkers, pedlars, and petty chapmen and other trading persons who shall travel and trade on foot in Great Britain without any horse or other beast bearing or drawing burden, and who shall carry their goods, wares, or merchandise to, and sell or expose for sale the same at other men's houses only, and not in or at any house, shop, room, booth, stall, or other place whatever belonging to or hired or occupied or used by them for that purpose in any town to which they may travel. Upon licenses to persons exercising the trade or calling of a hawker, pedlar, petty chapman, or other trading person going from place to place in Ireland, carrying to sell or exposing to sale any goods, wares, or merchandise, and travelling on foot, with or without a servant or other person, employed in carrying goods of any such hawker, pedlar, or petty chapman, but without a horse or other beast of burden. This resolution abolishes also the licenses on paper and pasteboard making, on soap-making, on still-making in Scotland and Ireland, and on watch-cases—to commence on July 6. The abolition of the license for playing-cards dates from Sept. 2.

In the ninth resolution the stamp duties for policies of insurance are abolished, and a stamp duty of 1d. substituted. The tenth resolution provides for the consolidation of the stamp duties, as detailed in a first schedule; and a draught bill is attached in a second schedule.

The following is the text of the last two resolutions:—11. "Resolved—That towards raising the supply granted to her Majesty, there shall be charged and paid, on and after the 1st day of April, 1870, upon all sums received in respect of traffic of every description upon any railway in Great Britain a duty of excise at and after the rate of £1 for every £100; and the duty payable in respect of the fares received or charged for the conveyance of passengers upon any railway in Great Britain, on and after the 1st day of April, 1870, shall cease to be payable." 12. Resolved—"That it is expedient to amend the laws relating to the inland revenue."

DISCOVERIES IN THIBET.—A paper written by Major Montgomerie, R.E., "On a Pundit's Explorations in Western and Central Thibet," was read at the meeting of the Geographical Society on Monday evening. It was stated in the paper that in certain parts of the highlands of Thibet there are prolific gold-mines and large plains of salt and soda. Salt lakes are numerous, and in many parts of the country an unlimited amount of borax can be had for the digging. Sir Roderick Murchison, in commenting on the paper, said enough had been stated in it to cause the starting of two or three public companies within the week. Mr. Gladstone, he added, had lately remarked that the labours of the Geographical Society would shortly come to an end, as there were no more worlds to conquer. Major Montgomerie's statements proved that this was not so, for they showed that in Central Asia alone there were vast and valuable regions, which for many years yet to come could only be explored by trained pundits.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERY IN PARIS.—The great Gallo-Roman amphitheatre, situated upon the eastern slope of Mount Lucotitius (Mont St. Genevieve), has just been brought to light, after having been for many centuries buried. The Merovingian Kings after the Caesars were accustomed to exhibit spectacles in that place. The existence of this amphitheatre was not known in the Middle Ages, and a monk of the Abbey de St. Victor spoke of it in a Latin poem under the inaccurate title of the Grand Circus. The site in the formal documents of the Middle Ages was long known as the "Clos des Arènes," but for many years the amphitheatre itself had been buried under accumulations of earth seven or eight metres in depth. The great work now being carried in all parts of Paris has led to the unearthing of this interesting monument. "We saw yesterday," says the *Sicle*, "in the Rue Monge, near the Rue Cardinal-Lemoine, one half of its vast oval space laid open where the rising ground upon which formerly stood the English convent had covered it. The things there were benches had been have disappeared, except in a few places; but the piers which supported the rows of benches are intact in their simple construction of medium-sized stones and Roman cement, without admixture of brick. There are still to be seen two of the dens in which wild beasts were confined, and the entrance from them into the arena. The character of the construction is that of Rome in its prime, and in point of art is superior to that of the period at which the Palais des Thermes was erected. It is possible that the amphitheatre is contemporary with the Altar of Esus and other monuments of the first century, which were formerly discovered beneath the high altar of Notre Dame. It is in any case the oldest Roman monument not only of Paris but of Northern Gaul, except, perhaps, the Gate of Mars at Rheims. It is believed that a continuation of the excavations now being made will lead to further interesting discoveries. Already there have been found many specimens of pottery, some medals, and the fragments of a rich collar of Gaulish lady, with fastenings of gold and grains of turquoise, or lapis lazuli."

A HINDOO REFORMER.

A LARGE congregation was drawn to Mr. Martineau's chapel, in Little Portland-street, on Sunday morning, by the announcement that Keshub Chunder Sen, the leader of the Brahmo Samaj, a society of Hindoo reformers, who have renounced idol worship without embracing Christianity, would preach. Among the congregation were members of both Houses of Parliament and several men of eminence in science and literature. The devotional part of the service was conducted by Mr. Martineau, and at its close Keshub Chunder Sen ascended the pulpit and announced as his text the words, "In Him we live, and move, and have our being," but without quoting the passage from the Bible.

He commenced by remarking that it was of the utmost importance to them that they should realise the presence of that great and holy God whom they professed to worship, and the solemn relation in which they stood to Him, as without this religion was almost powerless, and, though it might satisfy the understanding and the intellect, could not exercise any influence upon the life and conduct. There were thousands of nominal theists, he went on to say, who entertained very accurate theological notions of the Divinity, who boasted of having given up idolatry, and who consequently thought themselves very near the kingdom of heaven; but beneath their boasted theological scholarship there lurked unbelief in its milder but not less insidious forms. They thought of God as One who was remote from them, and had very little to do with the direct administration of the affairs of the world; and when they professed to pray it seemed as if their prayers went out into empty space, where there was no present God. If men were really anxious about their salvation they should not boast of mere intellectual ideas of the Deity. It was one thing to say, with the understanding, that God exists; and quite a different thing to say, with the whole heart and soul, "My Lord is before me and behind me, and filleth all space." It was one thing to talk of God as the eternal, infinite, majestic Sovereign of the Universe, and another thing to feel Him very near our hearts, the living and loving Father. When God had created the universe He did not go away from it; He lived among men, dwelt in their homes, was present with them in the varied concerns of life; wherever they were He was with them, and in that light should they always regard Him. He did not merely hold the same relation to the world He had created as the watchmaker did to the watch; but He animated all the spiritual movements of the universe and of mankind. He was in the midst of history, and His merciful finger lurked beneath all the events which gave to history its chief interest. When they looked up and saw the vast starry convex, or when they saw the moon bathing the whole of Nature in one flood of sweet and serene light, they ought to feel that the Power of all Powers was still quickening every movement in the universe. His presence might also be felt amid the little details of daily life; and even when they entered the arena of public life they would find that the Lord had not deserted them. Nations, as well as individuals, were governed by the Supreme will, and there was no spot where the Lord was not present. God was a friend and a companion to men for time and for eternity—One who sympathised with them in all their difficulties and trials, and to whom they might open their hearts in earnest supplication. Such a God was the need of the world, and the sinner peculiarly felt the want of Him. Unless and until a man had such a God before him—unless and until he could satisfy himself of being in the presence of such a God, he could not realise the blessings of true religion. Men who rested satisfied with a negative religion might have come out of the Egypt of idol-worship, but they had not reached that land where alone they could find true peace and comfort. A sense of God's presence was necessary to enable any of them to resist the rushing torrent of temptations, and to arm them for the great battle with the evils around them. Fortified with that, they could say, amid all the difficulties and sorrows that awaited them, "Lord, help Thou Thy poor and helpless child;" and a few words, poured out in the spirit of earnestness and sincerity, would bring down from the Father of Mercies strength to resist temptation, to endure the loss of rulers, and to bear up against domestic affliction. With God's presence joy became enhanced, and all that was painful in life was mitigated. The presence of the Lord was not only a school of discipline where the character was purified and temptation guarded against, it was also a source of happiness. Let them realise the presence of the Lord wherever they went, and when they came to die the loving countenance of their Father would reveal itself, the darts of death would become inoffensive, all the sorrows of departure would be taken away, and they would feel that they were going to the mansions of righteousness and peace. In conclusion, the preacher expressed the delight which he had felt in joining the service of that morning and in mingling his voice with the voices of the congregation; adding that he felt that he and his brethren in India were all children of the same Father and Lord of the Universe as those whom he had addressed.

The address was delivered extempore, in excellent English, with scarcely a trace of any foreign accent, and in a simple and easy style.

Keshub Chunder Sen was warmly received at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Tuesday, at a crowded gathering of representatives of all religious denominations. In acknowledging a resolution of welcome, moved by Dean Stanley, Chunder Sen made a speech, in which he spoke very plainly of the failure of Christian missions in India, and told his hearers that the multiplicity of dogmas and doctrines preached by the missionaries tended to bewilder the Hindoos. He also avowed that the life led by many of the teachers of religion did not recommend that religion to the natives. Lord Houghton and Lord Lawrence took part in the proceedings.

SUGAR FROM BEET-ROOT.—Now let us see (keeping as clear as possible from technical terms) what happens to the beet-root when it is brought to the factory. The usual plan of operation is to wash the roots well, so as to free them from clay and dirt, and then to place them within the clutches of circular saws, making over 1000 revolutions a minute, by which they are torn to pieces and reduced to pulp. This latter is then packed in linen bags, and subjected to the action of an hydraulic press, by which the juice is all squeezed out and the pulp becomes a cake. This not only forms the beet-bread—so valuable for feeding purposes—but, if not required for that end, can also be used for making brandy and vinegar; or, what is still more remarkable, paper, it being found by paper manufacturers to be superior to rag pulp. So that, whatever may be the defects in the beet process, incapability of utilisation is not one of them. — *Food Journal*.

THE LATE SOUTHWARK ELECTION.—PRISON LABOUR.—At the late Southwark election, several persons interested in the mat manufacture drew the attention of the candidates to what they considered to be the unfair competition of prison labour. Mr. William Tallack, the secretary of the Howard Association, in a lecture on the Progress of Prison Reform, delivered in the borough recently, showed the fallacy of such objections by calling attention to the fact that most criminals are ignorant of a trade, and that their special vice is laziness. Hence they not only injure the public by their outrages and robberies, often amounting to hundreds of pounds in a very short time, but the honest, heavily-burdened ratepayers have, in general, to support these enemies in prison, and then to endure further plundering and repeated re-committals afterwards. For, under the present system, criminals are merely detained awhile, but not reformed or taught industrial habits. Nothing is so useful or so really deterrent to a lazy thief as hard tasks of useful labour—tasks of a nature to render back some compensation to an injured public, and at the same time to train the culprit to self-help in future. Mat-making is certainly too exclusively resorted to in prisons, and is not of much service to the offender after his discharge. The prisoner's food should be made, at least partially, dependent on his prison earnings. But at present the average earnings of English prisoners are only £2.10s. per annum (under 2d. a day), while their average cost is £37. The daily average of persons in prison throughout England and Wales, is about 20,000. But, as there are twenty million inhabitants, it is thus evident that, even if all the prisoners were rendered entirely self-supporting, the competition would be almost infinitesimal. And, for the few farthings of individual loss by competition, there would be many pounds of total saving to the ratepayers, in addition to the moral and religious advantages consequent upon reformatory industrial habits. Hence the objection to prison-labour competition may be termed literally "penny wise and pound foolish."

THE IRISH FARMERS' CATECHISM.

The first arrest under the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act was made, at Dundalk, in the county of Louth, last week, when a Mr. John Mathews, printer and news-vender, of that town, was taken into custody by three police constables, on a charge of having on that day "sold a printed pamphlet entitled the 'Farmers' Catechism,' containing divers seditious and treasonable words and sentences." Constable M'Kee deposed to having purchased a copy of the pamphlet in question at Mr. Mathews's shop. The prisoner declined to state whence he obtained the pamphlet, and was remanded to enable the authorities to be consulted with; bail for his appearance being taken.

The following is a complete copy of the publication referred to, which for some time past has been largely circulated in the different market towns of Ireland:—

What is your name?—Oppression.

Who gave you this name?—My landlord and agent in the days of my youth, wherein I was made a child of toil, a man of sorrow, and an inheritor of a bundle of rags.

What did your landlord and agent then for you?—They did promise and vow three things in my name:—First, that I should renounce all the comforts of this life, and all the pleasures found therein; secondly, that I should be a hewer of wood and drawer of water; and, thirdly, that I should be a slave for them all the days of my life.

Doest thou not think that thou art bound to believe and to do as they imposed upon you?—No; verily and by God's help I will endeavour to shake off the chains by which I am bound, better my condition, and continue in the same until my life's end.

Rehearse the articles of thy belief.—I believe that God is no respecter of persons, and that He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords; and that He created all things for the good of man, and that every man should enjoy the fruits of his labour, for the labourer is worthy of his hire. I also believe that I do not enjoy the fruits of my labour, for I am compelled to give it to men who reap where they do not sow, and gather where they have not sown; who are better known in the banqueting-hall, the foreign club-house, or on the betting-field than in the school of industry or among their honest, care-worn tenants, save when the corn is ripe. I also believe that I am not able to pay my rent from the produce of my farm, and that the pomp and vanity of those men who, like birds of passage, leave when they get the last grain of corn—men who live in ease and indolence, rolling about in purple and fine linen, and faring sumptuously every day, on the toil and sweat of their fellow-creatures, and revelling on the bread of idleness—have reached its highest climax; and that it is full time they should be brought to know and feel that the stalwart farmers are the bone and sinew of the land, and that they will no longer endure or submit to the burdens heaped on them by a class of extravagant landlords, who are the chief cause of the grievances of this country. I believe in the fall of rents and lowering of taxes, the suppression of crime, and the emancipation of all slaves.

What doest thou chiefly learn in these articles of thy belief?—First, I learn that justice demands such a state of things to cease, that rents must fall, and that tenant-right must be carried, to the satisfaction of the people, no matter what Government rules or who wields the sceptre; and, secondly, that honest independent men must be sent out to value the land, and a fair price laid on according to quality; and that no lands must exceed 25s. per acre, no matter what quality; for, according to the terms of the Ulster plantation, landlords are not entitled to benefits arising from the improvements of the soil, as all is owing to the labour of the industrious farmer; and, further, that proper security must be given to the tenant-farmer that he or his heirs cannot be removed so long as they pay their rents and conduct themselves as becometh honest peaceful members of society; and, thirdly, that all classes will go hand in hand and stand shoulder to shoulder in this legal warfare, and never give up till they bring landlord and tenant on a closer equality, and if needs be stand their opponents to the face in the hour of battle, for he who would not fight for his bread would not fight for his Sovereign.

You said that your landlord and agent did bind you to keep all their laws and commandments. Tell me how many there be?—Ten.

Which be they?—The same which they spake in their office when they brought me out of the land of peace into the land of bondage.

1st Commandment. Thou shalt have no tenant right.

2nd. Thou shalt not make to thyself any changes on thy farm, nor buy nor sell, without our consent, nor complain against us for rearing game thereon for our own amusement on coursing days, nor keep dog, nor gun, nor cat, to disturb them in any way, no matter what damage thou mayst sustain thereby; thou shalt bow down and pay obedience unto us, for we are thy landlords and jealous ones, who shall visit thee and thy children with heavy rents, notices, and ejectment processes, if thou disobey us or neglect to pay thy rents.

3rd. Thou shalt not take the name of thy landlord nor agent in vain, or speak lightly of us, no matter what we do, for we will not hold them guiltless who taketh our name in vain.

4th. Remember that thou art a tenant at will; 365 days shalt thou labour and do all that thou hast to do; but the 1st day of November in each year is our rent day, in which thou shalt do no manner of work till you reach our office and pay us to the uttermost farthing.

5th. Honour thy landlord and thy agent with hat and hand, and be punctual in your payments, so that thy days may be long in the farm which we give unto thee.

6th. Thou shalt not kill any of our game.

7th. Thou shalt not commit thyself by violating any of our rules, or by disobeying any of our imperative commands, even to the obeying of our whippers in, or bailiffs.

8th. Thou shalt not cut down or remove any of our trees or turbary, no matter what your wants may be or how they inconvenience you, for all that grows thereon is ours, no matter who planteth it.

9th. Thou shalt not murmur or complain against us, or expose our misgivings in courts of law or through the public press; but endure with all patience, forbearance, and long-suffering, so that thou mayest be called a profitable servant.

10th. Thou shalt not covet thy landlord's house, thou shalt not covet thy landlord's wife, nor his servants, nor his maids, nor his oxen, nor his asses, nor anything that is his, though all is supported and procured by the toil and sweat of his tenantry.

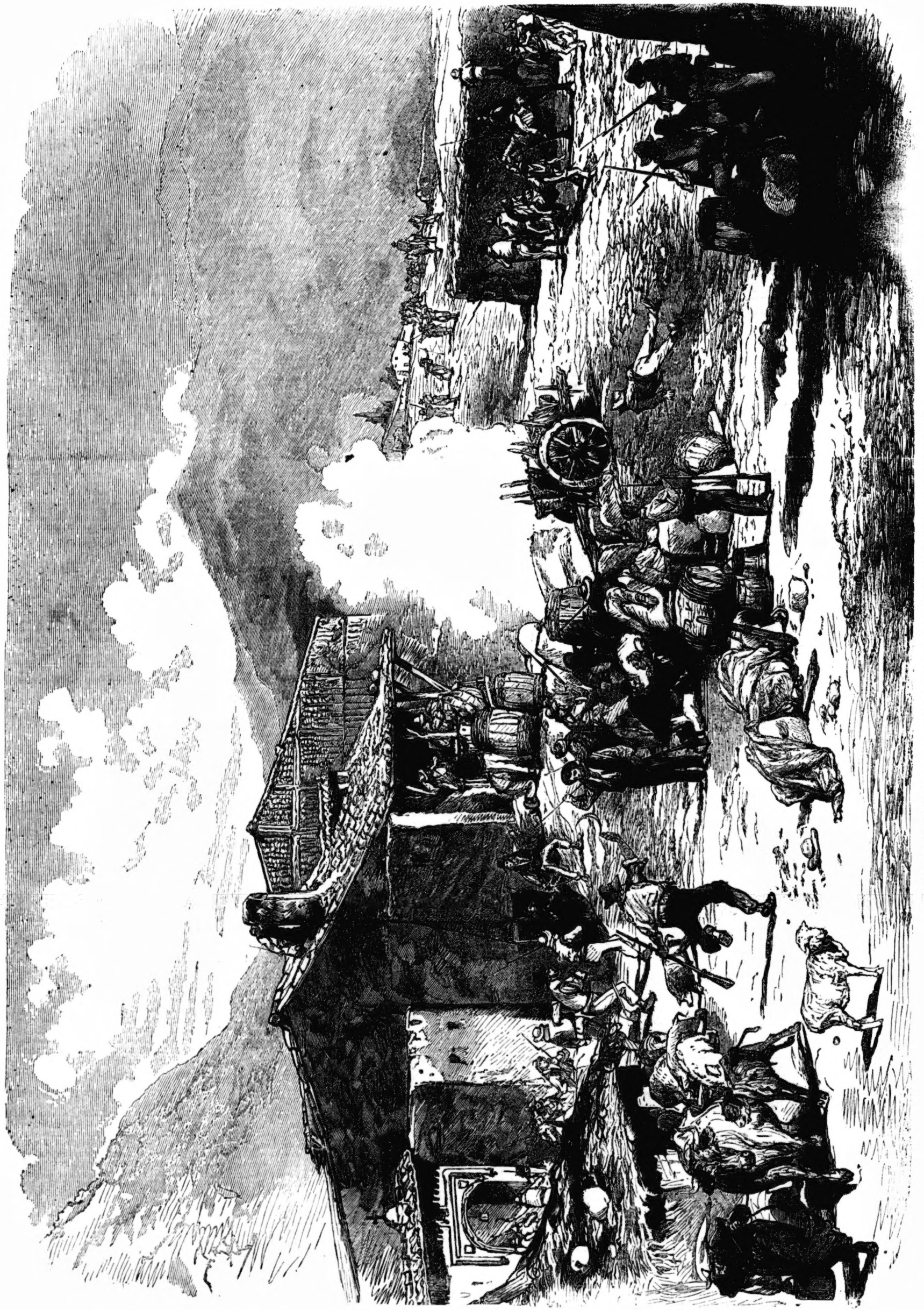
INSURRECTION AT MACEDA.

The taxpayers of Maceda, a good-sized village in what has been called the "Spanish Switzerland," seem to have come to the same conclusion as that which, at the end of 1839, obtained in France among a certain set of pamphleteers—namely, that all taxation was an abuse of power and was only submitted to by the influence of prejudice. At any rate, the fifteen hundred peasants forming the population of the Spanish village have lately risen in insurrection and met the demands of the troops sent to enforce payment of taxes in the way represented in our Engraving. Fifty redoubtable volunteers put themselves in a position of defence armed with carbines and whatever weapons they could lay their hands on. The conflict was a severe one, and three killed, beside many badly wounded, was the result of the fray, which was carried on until a reinforcement of troops compelled the insurgents to surrender to the overwhelming majority of 300 soldiers. These conflicts in the mountain districts are attributed to the influence of the Carlist agents, who are in constant communication with the people in the principal villages.

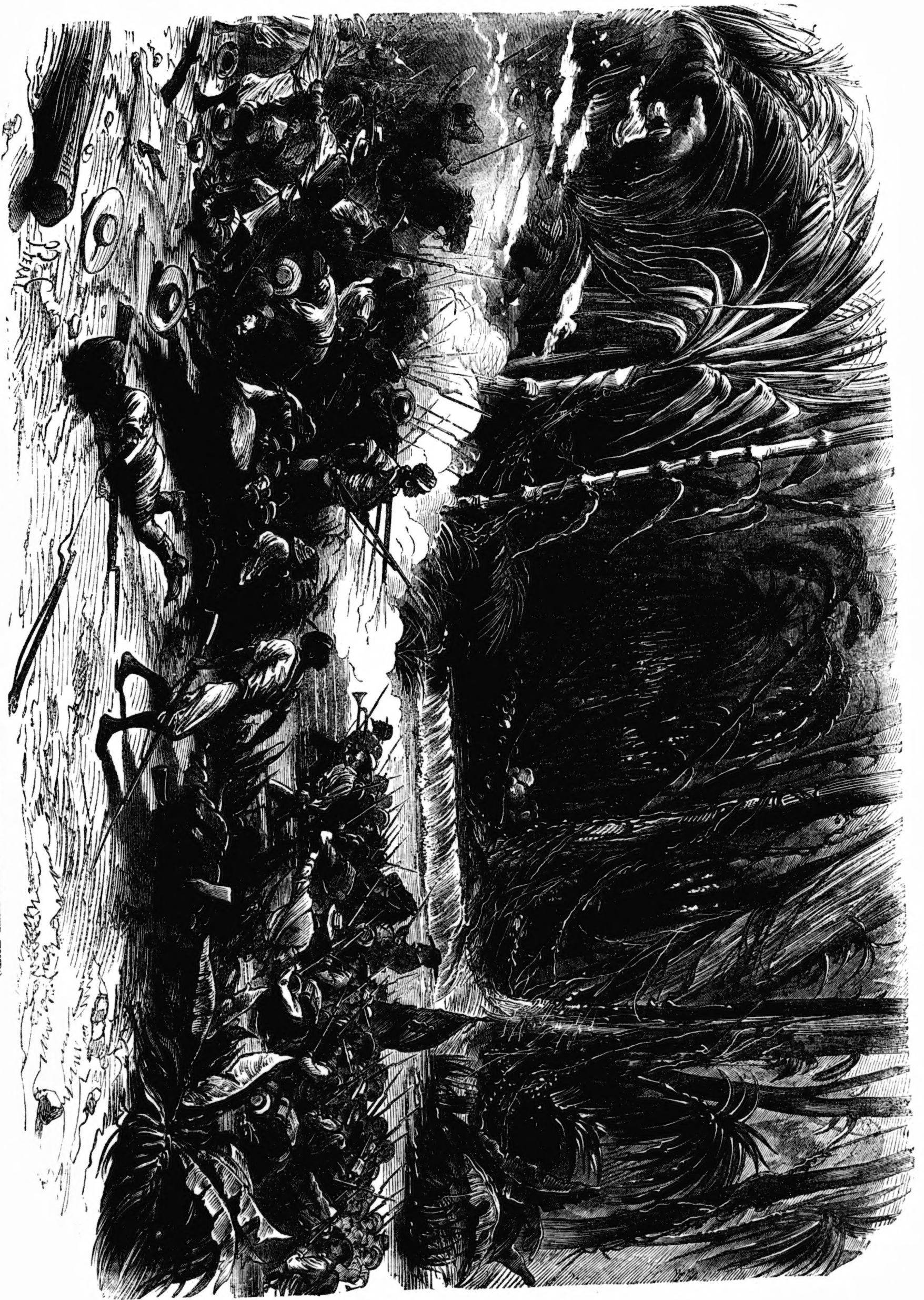
ENGAGEMENT OF TROOPS AND INSURGENTS IN CUBA.

THE Cuban insurrection continues, and though there is little to record which seems to lead to any expectation that the unhappy condition of affairs there will be speedily brought to a conclusion, the recurrence of fierce and sanguinary conflicts between the rebels and the troops sent out to support the authority of Spain are amongst the latest news. Among the most important of these fights was that represented by our Engraving, in the bed of the river Hondo. Two hundred of the insurgent Cubans were encamped on the banks of the river, which were covered with tropical trees and the dense vegetation which grows so freely in the island, such as inextricable tangles of lentisk and other shrubs that make any regular military evolution impossible. Here they were surprised by a detachment of eighty of those Andalusian volunteers of whom we recently gave some particulars. The affair was short and sharp. Whites and blacks fought with remarkable fierceness against their Spanish opponents, who, however, remained masters of the field, after having slain seventeen of the insurgents, besides taking possession of a quantity of arms, ammunition, and baggage, with horses and a dozen wounded prisoners.

A NUMBER OF LONDON COMPOSITORS are on strike, in consequence of three large firms having ignored the payment by the scale mutually agreed upon in 1866 by a joint committee of masters and workmen. At a meeting of union delegates, Mr. Self, secretary, read a letter requesting a conference with the Master Printers' Association, for the purpose of effecting, if possible, an amicable arrangement. The letter was ordered to be sent.



PEASANTS OF MACEDA, SPAIN, RESISTING THE IMPOSITION OF TAXES ON THEIR VILLAGE.



THE CUBAN INSURRECTION: ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN INSURGENTS AND SPANISH TROOPS IN THE RIVER HONDO.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 374.

The British House of Commons "is the admiration and envy of the world;" "the most august political assembly, Sir, that the world ever saw;" and is not "the wisdom of Parliament" proverbial? True, friend; looking down the vista of ages, and marking what the British Parliament has done for the country, we, too, are disposed to admire it very much, and could be most eloquent in its praises. But do not come too near it; continue to judge it by what it has achieved; don't care to examine too closely into the processes by which it obtains results; stand at the true focal distance if you would continue to admire the House of Commons; a closer examination of it might dissipate much of the glory which to your eye now surrounds it; too much familiarity is, you know, apt to engender contempt. There are times when we, whilst reading Hallam and other authors who have written about the English Parliament, or when we looked back, as through a vista, and recalled what the Parliament has done even in our time—how it beat the boroughmongers wellnigh forty years ago, and more than twenty years ago defeated in pitched battle the serried ranks of their monopolists;—when we thought of the illustrious heroes of these glorious wars, we, too, have given no stinted admiration to the British Parliament. But there have been other times when, walking home under the glistening stars, we reflected upon some riotous scene which we had for hours looked down upon, and the wrangling and inane and foolish talk which we had been compelled to hear, all our admiration evaporated, leaving behind nothing but disgust and contempt. This was so on Saturday morning last week as we wended our way, between three and four o'clock, to our bed, after listening for more than three hours to a hot, angry debate, or rather wrangle, on the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the subject of numerics.

GOVERNMENT DEFEAT AND ITS EFFECTS.

On Tuesday, March 29, Mr. Newdegate proposed a Select Committee "to inquire into the existence, character, and increase of conventual and monastic institutions or societies in Great Britain." The Government opposed this motion; but, this notwithstanding, it was carried by a majority of two, the ayes being 131, the noes 129. And here, before we go any further, let us notice two curious features of this division. First, forty-one Liberals voted against the Government; second, no less than six members of the Government were absent. If they had been in their places, as they ought to have been, as it was well known that Newdegate would certainly bring his motion on, Newdegate would have been beaten by a majority of four. The absence of these six members not only proves against them neglect of their duty, for which they ought to have got, and no doubt did get, a good wiggling from the Prime Minister, but shows that the whipping of the Government was bad. And here is a small fact which may account for this. The Government whips in Parliament are three—first whip, Mr. Glyn; second, Mr. Adam; third, Captain Greville; and all three were at their posts. But the permanent head of the whip department, a man of very great experience, and watchful as a cat at a mousehole, was away on sick leave. Had he been at his post, it is scarcely to be doubted that the Government would not have sustained this mortifying, inconvenient defeat; and we and some three or four hundred people would have been snug in bed by half-past one o'clock last Saturday morning, instead of four. "What great effects from little causes spring." The last-mentioned effect was not of much permanent importance; but no one knows what this unfortunate defeat may lead to. Many more fierce wranglings like that of Saturday morning are certain. The English Catholics are all in a flame; the Irish still hotter, naturally, for they are a more inflammable people; and though this motion does not apply to Irish monasteries and convents, if English institutions of this sort are to be overhauled, it is certain that those in Ireland will not be suffered long to escape inquisition. It is a serious business for the Government that at this particular juncture our Roman Catholic countrymen should be thus offended; and all this happens because six paid officials went out to dinner, or to the opera, and one unfortunately happened to be unwell. If great events hang on such slender threads, a Government might be overthrown because one man had the gout. But our readers may ask, if the matter was settled on March 29, why this hot dispute on Saturday, April 9? Well, on March 29, the House ordered that a Committee should be appointed. On Saturday morning, April 9, Mr. Newdegate moved that the Committee of Selection should choose his Committee; to this Mr. Cogan, member for the county of Kildare, moved an amendment that the order of March 29 be discharged; and hence the row.

A FACTION FIGHT.

And how shall we describe this row? Not at length, certainly. We could not do it; nor, indeed, anyone else, satisfactorily. A few words about the combatants, the cause, the hour, and the rest must be left to the fancy of our readers. The combatants were mainly on one side, hot, excitable Irish Roman Catholics; on the other, almost equally hot and excited English and Scotch Protestants. But here please to notice that the opponents of this Committee were not all on the Liberal side of the House; nor were all its supporters on the Conservative side. It will be remembered that on March 29 forty-one Liberals supported Mr. Newdegate—most of these, of course, supported him last Saturday; whilst, on the Conservative side of the House, some few Irishmen located there opposed him—notably, Mr. Henry Matthews, of Dungarvon, and Mr. George Henry Moore, who, though they call themselves Liberals, always sit on the Opposition benches, and always, when they can, oppose the Government. By-the-way, we noticed Mr. Matthews, as our readers will remember, a few weeks ago. We then spoke of him as an excellent speaker of the forensic class—eloquent, argumentative, though, as lawyers generally are, rather cold. Last Saturday morning, however, he was ardent, impassioned, and impressive, giving us a hint that if at the Bar there were now any call for oratory he would take high rank as an orator. Mr. Matthews, on this occasion, not having to discuss points of law, but to defend institutions the sanctity of which is very dear to him, spoke with unusual fervour and power. These, then, were the combatants; and anybody may see that here were materials sufficiently inflammable and likely, if once set on fire, to flame up very high. And was not the cause for which they both were fighting likely to ignite them? Obviously, nothing more likely. These men, on both sides, were fighting, or thought they were, for their religion; and, from of old, religious wars, whether upon a great or a small scale, have ever been the most fierce, bitter, deadly. "The wars of the Church," said one, "have always been more cruel, more destructive than even the quarrels of kings." So much, then, for the cause. Given, Papists and Protestants as combatants, and religion as the cause of war, we may be quite sure that we shall have hot work.

And now for the hour. It was an hour beyond midnight: that is a bad time for fighting in the House of Commons, as we have often discovered, and the cause is not far to seek. The combatants have all dined and wined, and possibly many of them smoked and grogged besides; and, though we would not presume to hint that a man of them was on this occasion inebriated, yet we may lay it down as a rule that men generally at one a.m., having dined and wined, if no more, are likelier to be pugnacious than they are at one p.m., when they have only lunched. Surely we may go so far without offence. When we heard what was coming on and remembered who were to be the combatants, and what was the cause of war, we confidently foretold that there would be hot work, and hot work there was. The wordy war lasted two hours. "And how did it end?" Well, we will tell you, and if the result does not prove that these gentlemen were as unwise as they were angry we shall be surprised. Mr. Newdegate proposed the appointment of his Committee; Mr. Cogan moved his amendment; Mr. Somebody—I know not who, nor care to inquire—moved that the debate be adjourned. The House divided: the numbers were—

ayes, 76; noes, 110. Soon after some one else moved the adjournment, and then, after some more vain talk, Mr. Newdegate assented, and the House broke up. And now, mark! readers. Mr. Newdegate, when he brought his motion on, knew to a certainty that this would be the result. Every man in the House knew from the first that to get Newdegate's motion passed, with such a determined, resolute opposition in front of it, was as impossible as to walk through a stone wall; and yet they went on gabbling and chattering, and wrangling about the matter, and yelling and growling at one another, for two hours. Was there ever such un wisdom as this? Never, surely, in any assembly except the House of Commons; and there, unhappily, it is not uncommon. Do our readers wonder, then, that as we dragged our wearied limbs homewards—the sonorous bells in the clock-tower tolling out the while half-past three—we had no fervent admiration for the British House of Commons?

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

On Friday night, April 8, there was a scene in the House, which was more significant, and had, as we say, more in it, we suspect, than most of the members and the readers of the debates on the following morning perceived. It was a contest, a rather quiet, if not noiseless, combat between aggressive new thought and stubborn old Conservative use and wont; or, in other words, between new science and old dogma; not theological dogma. In every region of thought there are dogmas and dogmatists. The representatives of new thought were on this occasion Sir John Lubbock and Dr. Lyon Playfair; of old use and wont Lord Eustace Cecil was specially the defendant and champion. The special question was, how our military officers ought to be prepared to do their fighting work. At present the relative values of the requisites to make a good officer in the opinion of our rulers stand thus:—Mathematics stand at 4000, Latin at 4000, Greek at 3000, English Composition at 1000, French at 2000, German at 2000, History at 1500, Science at 1500, Drawing at 1000. Thus our rulers deem it twice as important that an officer should read Greek, a dead language, than that he should have knowledge of physical science, and decide that the ability to speak French and German is only one half as important as the ability to read Latin, which is now spoken nowhere except at the Ecumenical Council; and then the Latin there spoken is, we suspect, not the Latin of our public schools, but rather that sort which Lord Dufferin had to take to when he was in High Latitudes. Sir John Lubbock and Dr. Playfair do not quite see the propriety of this arrangement, think it a sort of inverted order of things, as if a candidate for a commission were expected to know more of ancient than of modern fortification—bow-and-arrow practice first and rifle second. Sir John Lubbock need hardly be specially introduced to our readers. He is a great City banker, and, what is far better, a scholar, a learned savant, and an advanced thinker in science and philosophy. He is at once affluent in ingots and knowledge. This was not Sir John's first appearance; but this, as far as we remember, was the first time that he rose to make an important speech. He spoke, not oratorically, but in calm, easy, gentlemanly style, trusting for effect rather to the power of his facts and reasoning than to the art—or artifice—of the rhetorician. What the House generally thought of the speech we know not; but to us it was a very refreshing speech. It was something uncommon here. It was like an unexpected bubbling stream where usually no water is. It was actually a speech which taught us something worth carrying away; it was suggestive of new ideas. Think of that, readers, in the House of Commons! But clearly it was not relished by the Conservative gentlemen opposite. Indeed, when afterwards Dr. Playfair told them that science would render mere British pluck and brute force much less effective than it used to be, they groaned audibly; and one can easily imagine how, at the Carlton and the United Service, the old military fogies who there do congregate would discuss the proposal that commanding officers should know something of science. "Geology and chemistry! Did Wellington know anything about them, or Ney, or Charley Napier?" "Not a bit of it, my boy! Let the cobbler stick to his last. If we don't know how to manage the Army, be sure these fellows can't tell us," &c. But there was one soldier—to wit, Captain Beaumont—who spoke out manfully in support of Sir John's motion. The placing classical above scientific knowledge found no favour with him. He belongs to the Royal Engineers, and has seen service in the Crimea and the Indian mutiny; and this is his experience:—"I regret to say that my education in classics was much neglected. Two or three easy passages in 'Cæsar' formed a passport when I entered the academy at Woolwich; but in my professional career I never found the want of further classical knowledge, whereas I was distinctly conscious of deficiencies in mathematics and other branches of scientific instruction." But, on the other hand, a certain Major Dickson, also a Crimean man, objects to fine young men being badgered at Chelsea for five or six days by "a parcel of civilians," and would have the competitive examinations there entirely abolished. Here we have true old-foggyism. That "badgered by a parcel of civilians" is capital. But the gallant Major is a Conservative, whereas Captain Beaumont is a Liberal. Some people fancy that Liberalism is confined to politics. This is not so. If a man be really a Liberal, his Liberalism pervades every region of thought.

MR. LOWE'S BUDGET.

Monday was the Budget night. The Budget always draws a good House; but on this occasion the House was not so full as we have seen it on former occasions. There was, though, a reason for this. Last Saturday most of the Irish members took wing for Ireland, several Scotch members left town, and not a few English. This is the most prominent cause; but it cannot be denied that Mr. Lowe does not draw as Gladstone did. Our present Chancellor of the Exchequer is a very able man, as all by this time must know, and he can, as all also know, make clever speeches; but he cannot deliver an elaborate financial statement well. For this reason, if no other—he is so near-sighted that, unless he have a strong light thrown upon his papers, he finds it difficult, even with the aid of a glass of strong magnifying power, to read the figures upon his papers. On Monday there was at no time sufficient light for him, except for half an hour or so after he rose; then the evening shades began to draw in, and evidently troubled him much, and by some neglect the gas was not turned on so soon as it was needed, and the House got so dark that some of us thought that the right honourable gentleman would have to stop. "Why don't they turn on the gas?" was murmured through the House. Nobody could tell, the neglect was unaccountable. At last, in a moment—in the twinkling of an eye, the light flooded the House. This sudden lighting up of the House is a very beautiful sight, and it was specially beautiful on Monday night because it had been delayed so long. The House was so dim that you could scarcely discern the features of members at a distance. Indeed, nothing could be discerned clearly, when, as if at the old command "Let there be light," all the members' countenances and forms, and all the architecture of the chamber, flashed out of darkness into radiant light.

THE ARMY PURCHASE COMMISSION.—The Commissioners appointed by her Majesty to inquire into and report on the practice of paying in respect of promotion, and of receiving in respect of retirement, sums in excess of those sanctioned by Royal warrant of Feb. 3, 1866, are Sir George Grey, the Earl of Devon; Mr. G. W. Hunt, M.P.; Sir James Yorke Scarlett, Major-General Slesse, and Mr. P. H. Mount, M.P. They are commanded to inquire into the extent and manner in which the practice of payment in respect of promotions may have been carried on, the incidents of the practice, and the circumstances under which the person who may have paid any such sum has been accustomed to receive the like sum back on the sale of his commission, or otherwise; and the circumstances under which the sum paid has been irrecoverable; the degree of recognition which this practice may have received from any public departments or officers, and how far any statutes which now or heretofore may have prohibited the said practice, and any Royal warrants and regulations affecting the same, have been actually enforced. Mr. Ralph Henry Knox has been appointed secretary to the Commission.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord DE GREY AND RUPON introduced a bill on medical education, the object of which is to establish an examination board in each of the kingdoms, and thus to secure uniformity in the standard of qualifications for medical practitioners. In the first instance the existing licensing bodies would be authorised to submit to the General Medical Council proposals for the constitution of the new examining boards, but the bill would lapse to the council if not exercised within a certain period. A scheme was prepared it would have to be submitted to the Privy Council before coming into operation. The bill was read the second time.

The Appellate Jurisdiction Bill and the High Court of Justice Bill were committed pro forma.

On the motion of Lord CHELMSFORD, it was agreed to apply to the Crown for an inquiry into the arrangements of the King's Inns, and with regard to the admission of attorneys and solicitors.

A return with reference to outrages in Donegal and Leitrim was presented on the motion of Lord LEITRIM.

The House adjourned for the Easter holidays till the 28th inst.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRISH LAND BILL.

The House, at the morning sitting, having resumed Committee on the Irish Land Bill.

Mr. KAVANAGH moved to omit that portion of clause 3 which provided compensation in case of eviction from tenancies above £100 a year exceeding two years' rent. He also moved to omit the two following paragraphs of the clause.

A discussion ensued, during which much of the ground gone over on previous night was retraversed; and ultimately Mr. Kavanagh, at the suggestion of Mr. Disraeli, withdrew his amendment. Upon the motion of Mr. Samuelson, an amendment was added to the clause stipulating that the maximum of compensation to be awarded under the Act should be £250.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE then moved the concluding portion of his amendment, progress with which had been interrupted on the previous night by the interposition of Mr. W. Fowler's motion. By the amendment proposed to enact that in the case of eviction from holdings of the value of £50 a year and upwards, compensation equal to two years' rent might be awarded; and for eviction from holdings above £100 a sum not exceeding one year's rent. It further provided that any tenant in a higher class of the scale might, at his option, claim to be compensated on so much only of his rent as would bring him into a lower class; but that no tenant of a holding valued at a yearly sum exceeding £10, and claiming under the section more than four years' rent, and no tenant of a holding valued at a yearly sum not exceeding £10, and claiming more than five years' rent, should be entitled to make a separate or additional claim for improvements other than permanent buildings and reclamation of land.

Mr. FELL raised the difficulty that there was a dangerous ambiguity about the phrase "reclamation of land," and moved that it be omitted from the motion, after a long discussion, was negatived without a division, and the amendment as proposed was passed.

Mr. HEADLAM then moved to add to the Irish Secretary's amendment proviso that nothing contained in the Act should exonerate a tenant from the lease from the duty of giving up peaceable possession of the demised land at the end of the term; nor should a landlord resuming possession by the termination of a lease be deemed to be disturbing a tenant within the meaning of the Act.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said the effect of the adoption of such an amendment as this would be that all tenants holding leases would be placed beyond the benefit of the Act.

Sir R. PALMER pointed out that the question which this amendment mooted was raised by three different amendments to be moved on another part of the clause, and it could be much more satisfactorily dealt with then.

Sir G. JENKINSON addressed the Committee amid loud cries of "Divide!" and at twenty-five minutes to seven Lord C. HAMILTON rose, and amid continual laughter and calls for a division, succeeded in occupying the time of the Committee up to the hour of adjournment.

MILITARY EDUCATION.

At the evening sitting, on the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Sir J. LUBBOCK called the attention of the House to the report of the Military Education Commission, especially with relation to the recommendation which it gave to the study of natural and physical science; and moved that it was not desirable to diminish the value hitherto attached to natural and physical science and the English language in the examinations for direct commissions and for admission to the military educational institutions, nor to lessen the importance of those subjects in the subsequent course of instruction and examinations.

Dr. L. PLAYFAIR seconded the motion.

Mr. Carnegie, Captain Beaumont, Major Dickson, Mr. Parker, and General Herbert having addressed the House,

Mr. CARDWELL explained the view which the Government took of the question; and the motion was withdrawn.

FENIAN PRISONERS.

Mr. BRUCE, in reply to a question from Mr. Moore, said that, in accordance with the promise made by Mr. Gladstone some weeks ago, he was engaged upon the task of constituting a commission to inquire into the case of Burke and other Fenian prisoners.

PARTIAL DISFRANCHISEMENT IN NORWICH.

Leave was given to bring in a bill to disfranchise certain voters in the city of Norwich.

MONASTIC AND CONVENTUAL INSTITUTIONS.

A long discussion followed Mr. NEWDEGATE's motion for a Select Committee to inquire into monastic and conventual institutions, and the debate was adjourned.

MONDAY, APRIL 11.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BUDGET.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made his financial statement in Committee of Ways and Means. The right hon. gentleman rose at a quarter to six o'clock, and concluded his statement at a quarter past eight, having spoken two hours and a half. Having detailed the various items of expenditure in the financial year 1869-70, when £75,434,000 was raised (the largest revenue ever collected in this country in any one year, with the exception of the three last years of the war with France), the right hon. gentleman proceeded to state that the revenue of 1869-70 exceeded that of the preceding year by £2,742,000, which he regarded as highly gratifying, regard being had to the fact that considerable reductions of taxation had simultaneously taken place. The total expenditure of 1869-70 was £67,564,000, which, deducted from the revenue (£75,434,000), left a surplus of £7,870,000. Out of this sum £4,300,000 had been paid in liquidation of charges on account of the Abyssinian expedition, making the net surplus £3,570,000. Some few accounts in reference to the expedition still remained to be adjusted with the Indian Government; but it might be inferred that the total Abyssinian expedition would be covered by £8,800,000. Out of the surplus the Government had also paid off £1,000,000 of Exchequer Bonds, and had purchased £134,000 worth of Exchequer Bills. The claims of the telegraph companies and other charges connected with the transfer of the service to the Post Office amounted to £6,750,000, out of which the Government had already paid £6,327,000, leaving a sum of £423,000 still payable. The money for the companies had been found by creating £7,000,000 of Consols, £4,000,000 of which had been placed in the hands of the National Debt Commissioners; and the market had been fed with the balance so cautiously and dextrously that no one had any conception that so large an operation was going on. The average sum at which this £3,000,000 had been sold was £92 4s. 7½d. The unfunded debt was now reduced to £6,761,000, being the lowest that had ever been reached within the memory of living man. Adverting next to the debts due to us by Spain and Portugal (amounting to upwards of £10,000,000), the right hon. gentleman explained that when, a few evenings before, he had referred to the subject, he had not intended to give offence to those Powers. He had spoken of the matter from a business-like and not from a political point of view; and he added as his opinion that as the time for asking payment had long since passed away the better course would be to renounce the claim altogether. Passing next to the financial year 1870-1, the right hon. gentleman estimated the expenditure as follows:—

Interest on the public debt	£26,650,000
Other charges on the Consolidated Fund	1,820,000
Army	12,975,000
Navy	9,251,000
Civil Service	9,390,000
Revenue Department	4,960,000
Packet Service	1,107,000
Telegraph Service	360,000
	£67,113,000

The estimated revenue for the year 1870-1 was made up thus:—

Customs	£21,650,000
Excise	21,610,000
Stamps	8,700,000
Income and Property Tax	7,000,000
Taxes	2,850,000
Post Office	4,900,000
Telegraphs	675,000
Crown Lands	285,000
Miscellaneous	3,020,000
	£71,450,000

against £75,444,000 last year. Taking the revenue, therefore, at £1,000,000, and the expenditure at £67,113,000, there would remain a surplus of £928,887,000. To this sum he proposed to add £150,000, which he intended to get by abolishing game licenses (which were difficult of collection, and could be easily evaded), and imposing instead a new license of 20s. per annum for carrying any description of firearms. This source of income would raise the surplus to £1,487,000. With regard to the appropriation of this sum, he proposed to convert the Post-Office savings-bank accretions into terminable annuities ending in 1885, which, calculated at 47 1/2 per cent, would in the course of the financial year throw an increased charge on the Consolidated Fund of £190,000, while the annual charge thereon would be at the rate of £347,000 per annum, leaving to whoever might be the holder of the Exchequer in 1885 a remission of income of £3,376,000. Having next adverted to the difficulty of dealing with the beer question in a manner that would give satisfaction either to the brewer or to the consumer, and explained that he had given up the matter in despair, except so far as to allow the use of sprouted barley as food for cattle, he proceeded to explain that he proposed to abolish the tax on foot hawkers, and also other small license duties collected from sellers of playing-cards, still-boxes, and other trifling articles, paper makers, and watch-case makers, producing a sum of £200,000. It was also proposed to revise the stamp duties and to equalise the duties between foreign and inland bills of exchange. These revisions would entail a loss upon the revenue of £200,000. A further loss of £120,000 a year (of which, however, only £60,000 would fall on the present year) would accrue from the abolition of the impressed duty on newspapers. It was also proposed to carry all newspapers of less than six ounces weight for a halfpenny, and to carry any other printed matter not exceeding two ounces for a halfpenny. These concessions would amount to £250,000. The total of the proposed abatements of locomotion having already been proposed, was proposed to abolish the 5 per cent duty on railway passenger receipts, and likewise the exemptions now enjoyed by railway companies in respect of third-class passengers, and to impose instead a uniform charge of 1 per cent upon all traffic receipts. By this operation the Government could lose £194,000 a year on the one hand, and gain £387,000 on the other, leaving a net remission of £197,000. After all these remissions and concessions had been made, a large sum still remained to be disposed of, and, with the view of equalising the pressure as much as possible, he proposed to remit a certain proportion of direct taxation and a certain portion of indirect. The income and property tax would be reduced by 1 penny in the pound, and the sugar duties would be cut down one half. The former operation would absorb £1,250,000 and the latter £2,350,000. The sweeping change in the sugar duties was suggested in the hope of reducing the trade at once and for ever, and consequently he could not hold out the prospect of further reduction of duty, much less its total abolition. The reduced duty would commence at once on raw sugar, but a delay of three weeks would take place in the case of refined sugar, to enable the holders to get rid of their stocks. The total of the proposed abatements and remissions would be as follows:—

Hawkers' licenses	£16,000
Small licenses	6,000
Remissions on plate glass, hailstorm insurances, &c.	1,000
Stamps	50,000
Impressed stamps on newspapers	60,000
Postage on printed matter	125,000
Railway passengers' duty	108,000
Income tax (1d. in the pound)	1,250,000
Sugar duty (half remitted)	2,350,000
Total remissions	£3,966,000

which, deducted from the excess of revenue, would leave a surplus of £1,400,000. The right hon. gentleman concluded by placing in the hands of the Chairman a resolution reducing the duties on sugar by 50 per cent. A short discussion followed Mr. Lowe's statement, after which resolutions necessary for carrying out the changes proposed in the Budget were agreed to.

THE GAME LAWS IN SCOTLAND.

The LORD ADVOCATE brought in a bill to amend and to assimilate in certain respects the laws of England and Scotland relating to game.

CORRUPT PRACTICES AT ELECTIONS.

Mr. GLADSTONE moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the state of the law affecting members of Parliament who have been reported guilty of corrupt practices by an Election Commission. The subject had been brought under the notice of the Government, he admitted, by recent cases, and by inquiries which had been put in reference to them. There were two or three members in the House now affected by the motion, and the inquiry would involve several questions which he indicated—whether they had obtained an indemnity against prosecution by the expiration of the statutory limitation, whether they had been heard in their own defence within the meaning of the statute, and whether it would be desirable to resort to the expedient of expulsion in such cases.

Mr. J. LOWTHORP moved as an amendment that the Committee be empowered to inquire into the operation of the Corrupt Practices Acts; and also into the complaints made against the conduct of certain Commissioners. He maintained that the inquiry suggested by the Prime Minister, as to the state of the law, was known to every attorney's clerk in the country, whereas before Mr. Disraeli's Act of 1868 could be renewed. With regard to the latter part of his motion, Mr. Lowthorpe animatedly severely on the conduct of the Commissioners, particularly the Bridgewater Commissioners. The ATTORNEY-GENERAL replied that the inquiry was necessary, as the Lord Chancellor, himself, and the Solicitor-General were of opinion that the state of the law was very doubtful. The Government, however, would not object to a separate Committee to inquire into the operation of the Corrupt Practices Acts; but they could not consent to an inquiry into the conduct of the Commissioners, whose general ability and discretion the Attorney-General earnestly defended.

Mr. W. Hunt, though not holding the law to be so doubtful, advised Mr. Lowthorpe to accept the offer of the Government, as did also Mr. Pemberton, and, after some observations from Sir R. Palmer, Mr. S. Hill, and the Solicitor-General, Mr. Lowthorpe withdrew his amendment, intimating that he would renew the first part of it next day.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE—PROGRESS OF BUSINESS.

On Mr. GLADSTONE moving that the House at its rising should adjourn till Monday, the 25th inst., Mr. W. LAWSON complained of the great delay on the part of Ministers in transacting their policy with reference to the licensing system, a question which interested very deep and general interest in the country.

Sir H. SELWYN-IBBETSON participated in the regret expressed by Sir W. Lawson that a bill had not been introduced; but he could not not desire its introduction if there were no possibility of its being carried.

Mr. B. OSBORNE complained of the Government, not because they had not brought in the bill, but that they had proposed too many already to have any chance of success.

The HOME SECRETARY, after alluding to the difficulties he had encountered in the endeavour to deal with the licensing question, remarked that it would be a most mischievous thing to introduce a measure respecting it without a reasonable chance of its becoming law. The subject, important as it was, yielded in interest to the Land Bill, and especially to the Education Bill, which measures he hoped would pass in the course of the Session, and thus make the way more easy for proceeding with the other. If he failed in introducing his Licensing Bill this Session, he hoped to submit it to the House on the earliest possible day next Session. Referring next to the Mines Regulation and Inspection Bill, Mr. Bruce said that it was put on the paper for the day of the assembling of the House after the recess, when he should move its committal pro forma, for the purpose of inserting several important amendments.

Mr. MUNDELLA delivered a somewhat violent philippic against the Opposition for "killing time," with the view of obstructing the progress of the Land Bill in the interest of the property classes, and particularly singled out for censure Lord Elcho and Lord C. Hamilton.

Lord ELCHO thereupon addressed an indignant reproof to Mr. Mundella for presuming, as a new member of the House, to lecture men of long Parliamentary experience. Disclaiming any party ties with the Conservative Opposition, Lord Elcho justified them for doing what they could to get the country to look at the land question in the light in which they themselves viewed it; and he hoped that all who on either side, were sent to that House in defence of property, would join in the effort to make the Ministerial scheme reasonable where it was at present unreasonable.

Mr. GLADSTONE retorted that he was entitled to believe that the manner in which Lord Elcho was defending property and the principles he asserted and acted upon constituted a far more formidable attack upon property than the Government bill. Ministers might have fallen into an error in undertaking so much business during the present Session; but the error had now been committed, and the question was how to get forward. He reminded the House of the pressure brought to bear upon the Government with the object of inducing them to enter upon even more business, and promised that no effort should be spared in the endeavour to pass the most important measures through the House.

Some observations followed from Sir J. Pakington, Mr. P. Taylor, Mr. N. Grenville, and Mr. Whalley, and then the motion for adjournment was agreed to.

BUDGET RESOLUTIONS.

The report of resolutions of the Committee of Ways and Means was brought up, and, after a diffuse conversation on several of the items in the Budget, the resolutions were agreed to.

THE PATENT LAWS.

Mr. MACFIE rose to move the appointment of a Select Committee on the law relating to letters patent for inventions; but had proceeded only a short way with his speech when the House was counted out.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1870.

THE PECULIAR PEOPLE.

The Peculiar People, as all the world knows, are a small body of sectaries in Essex, who take their name out of one of the Epistles attributed to St. Peter; and their creed, in relation to their sick, out of a verse in that of St. James, reinforcing the authority of the latter with some general inferences drawn from other parts of the Jewish and Christian writings. The attitude which the Government and the Peculiar People occupy towards each other at the present moment is not without instruction for a large proportion of the friends of national education.

Until quite recently, the most pious and devoted of the Nonconformist body boldly declared that the State had no more right to assume Christianity than it had to assume Buddhism. "We are Christians," they said; "we hope we should have vouchsafed to us, in case of need, the necessary fortitude to die for our faith; but it is only by a figure of speech that an immense fluctuating body like a nation, in which generations come and go like the waves, and in which all forms of belief and no-belief claim equal 'toleration' can be called Christian. Therefore you have no right to enforce payment for the teaching of Christianity; no, not by a single reading lesson, hymn, prayer, or comment." This was intelligible and consistent, and nobody ever doubted the piety, the zeal, or the patriotism of the people who used to say it.

Those people have, however, now retreated from this ancient and only consistent ground and taken to "compromises" of various kinds. Will such of them as retain a little common-sense and straightforwardness consider the case of the Peculiar People? It is the *reductio ad absurdum* of their new doctrine. The State assumes Christianity and makes it part and parcel of its institutions—Christianity, we mean, in its entirety, historical, doctrinal, and moral. The Peculiar People also call themselves Christians. They accept the documents just as the Government does, and just as it demands that others shall do; for there are still statutes in existence under which Mr. Mill, Mr. Herbert Spencer, various distinguished living writers of the highest character, and—not impossibly—one or two members of the Government, might be sent to prison. One of the Peculiar People (who certainly are very peculiar fools) is summoned for an offence which might amount to manslaughter—namely, refusing medical assistance to a child; and this peculiar fool justifies himself by quoting St. James. Now, if the Government could say, simply, "Buddhist, Christian, Theist, or Atheist, we will punish you for an act of inhumanity," the position would be at least simple. But, as the facts stand, we submit that the Government is in a false position, and is bound to chop logic with the Peculiar People, upon the proper construction of the words of St. James; or else it is bound to codify the Old and New Testament in detail, so that peculiar people of various descriptions may know what to expect. The magistrate did, indeed, bandy words with the peculiar jack-ass who was brought before him; but, strange to say, nothing came of it! The man was not convinced. It is so notorious that in discussions of a similar order the one side usually succeeds in convincing the other, that possibly the appointment of a Standing Committee of Seraphic Doctors to solve knotty points and convince schismatics might be found a valuable aid to the working of our Constitution. In the meanwhile, let us point out that those who advocate rate-paid religious instruction are in a dilemma. Of course sectarian teaching may be given in the shape of comments upon Bible lessons; but it is just as easy, if not easier, so to select Bible lessons as to convey dogma of the most specific kind. In fact, the insincerity, the huddling up, the hush! hush! policy of the controversialists on all sides of this great national question, is a disgrace to us. Certainly, the case of the Peculiar People will bear a good deal of thinking over in connection with that question. And if anyone supposes that religious teaching in the shape of "comments" would prevent the cropping-up of these "peculiar" blundering growths, let him pause. Mr. Orson Pratt, of Mormonia, is an educated man; so were the Lampeter Brethren, afterwards known as the Agapemonites; and so were some of the adherents of Richard Brothers, Ludovick Muggleton, and Joanna Southcott.

THE CROPS.—Mild weather and grateful rains are working wonders in most parts of England. Vegetation is shooting rapidly, pastures have changed from a dead and frost-nipped condition into bright green herbage within the short space of three or four days, and young clovers are springing up with specially good and equable plants. The wheats, more backward, thin, and weak than they have been known for years, are only just coming into readiness for the hoe; the roller and presser have been universally in requisition for solidifying the dry and dusty soil about the plants, and the crop has suffered severely from drought following upon an excessive rainfall. Beans and early peas are coming up well; both oats and barley have this year a good seed bed; and we do not remember a more favourable season or a better mould for potato-setting, which is now nearly completed.—*Chamber of Agriculture Journal.*

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, accompanied by the members of the Royal family, left Windsor Castle for the Isle of Wight at half-past three on Wednesday afternoon.

HER MAJESTY has consented, if her health permit, to open the Hall of Arts and Sciences at South Kensington, which is rapidly approaching completion.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has conferred upon Prince Frederick of Schleswig-Holstein and his descendants the title of Count.

MR. BRIGHT arrived at Llandudno last Saturday, accompanied by Mrs. Bright, and is stated to appear much improved in health.

MARSHAL PRIM has recently made a present to the Emperor Napoleon of 20,000 cigars, with gilt ends and ornamented with the Imperial "N," also gilt on each cigar, which is estimated to be worth 1½l. In return, the Emperor has sent to the Spanish Marshal a pair of vases of Sevres manufacture.

MR. KENNWAY, a Conservative, son of Sir John Kennway, was elected, on Saturday, at Exeter, as the representative of South Devon, in place of Lord Courtenay, resigned. There was no opposition.

THE LATE MARQUIS OF AILSA'S ENTIRE STUD OF HUNTERS is to be brought to the hammer, at Tattersalls, on May 19.

CAPTAIN BLACKLOCK is stated to have received the appointment of superintendent of the Atlantic Telegraph Cable, at a salary of £1000 per annum. Captain Blacklock was for many years in the service of the Electric and International Telegraph Company.

DR. CHARLES MENDELSSOHN is collecting materials for an exhaustive biography of his father, the great composer.

SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG has presented £2500 to the Newcastle-on-Tyne Infirmary to help to carry out extensions. It is intended to build an Armstrong wing.

THE CANTATA to be written for the Birmingham Festival, by Mr. Barnett, has for its subject Moore's "Paradise and the Peri."

THE TREASURY RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS from April 1 to 9 were as follows:—Receipts, £1,232,450; payments, £5,679,955, of which by far the greater part was devoted to the interest on the National Debt.

THE FARMERS IN ONE PORTION OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE having reduced the wages of their labourers to 8s. 3d., weekly, the latter struck work, and much ill-feeling, with occasional violence of conduct, has been the result.

THE CITY OF BOSTON being now looked upon as lost, claims upon the underwriters at Lloyd's and the various insurance offices are about to be settled. It was on Jan. 25 that the City of Boston left New York, and on the 28th inst. she left Halifax. She has therefore been seventy-four days out.

THE "COUNTESS" OF DERWENTWATER intends to make another raid upon the Greenwich Hospital lands, with the view of getting in the rents due at May. After the late legal proceedings no tenant will pay his rent to her.

THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT has resolved to prevent the publication of all decrees of the Council that are likely to cause dissension among the different sects in the empire or to excite discontent or ill-will against the Government. In this category are comprehended the dogma of Papal infallibility and the Syllabus.

THE SALE OF THE FIRST PART OF M. ST. BEUVE'S LIBRARY realised a considerable sum. The "Essai sur les Revolutions," by Chateaubriand, was knocked down, for £124, to a near relation of the author. The sale produced nearly £2000. The collection of books in Port Royal is to be sold in the month of May.

AT A TEMPERANCE MEETING in Buffalo, a few nights ago, a lady declared her firm belief that it was a grave sin for parents to allow their young children to use condiments, and inveighed against the long category of sin and crime which may be traced to the immoderate use of mustard.

GOOD-SERVICE PENSIONS OF £300 A YEAR have been awarded to Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas M. C. Symonds, K.C.B., Rear-Admiral the Hon. J. R. Drummond, C.B., Admiral the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, K.C.B., and Rear-Admiral J. W. Tarleton, C.B. In the cases of the two first officers these pensions are not payable until the dates when they are respectively placed on half pay.

AN ILLICIT STILL, with a large quantity of spirits in process of distillation, was discovered at a house at Armsley, in Yorkshire, on Saturday. The keeper of it, a man named Thomas Holt, was apprehended, and, on being taken before the magistrates, was fined £30, and in default sent to gaol for three months.

THE ASSIGNEES OF BENJAMIN HIGGS, late clerk in the service of the Great Central Gas Company, have succeeded in realising upwards of £2000, and there are hopes that the creditors will ultimately be paid in full. The Gas Company, however, claim to prove against the estate for £71,000, the amount of Higgs's defalcations, and this has not yet been disposed of.

A BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS has examined the convict Rutherford, lately condemned to death for murder, and has unanimously reported that the risk of a revolting spectacle was imminent had the capital sentence been carried out in the ordinary way. The Home Secretary had, therefore, no alternative but to advise the grant of a reprieve.

FOUR CHILDREN, whose parents belong to the "Peculiar People," have lately died, in Essex, for want of medical aid in sickness. The father of one of the deceased children has been convicted at the Orsett Petty Sessions of having neglected to provide the required medical assistance; but he was discharged on promising to come up for judgment when called upon. He, however, declared that he should continue to act as he had hitherto done.

A TESTIMONIAL TO CAPTAIN MERCIER, the hon. secretary to the late committee for the reception of the King and Queen of the Belgians, was presented on Wednesday by the mayors and ex-mayors of the United Kingdom, for his services in connection with the reception of, and the presentation to, their Majesties on the occasion of their visit to her Majesty the Queen in November last. The testimonial consisted of a service of plate and a purse of 100 guineas.

FAREWELL OF BISHOP LYCURGUS.—Archbishop Lycurgus, in a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury, speaks in most glowing terms of his reception in England, which he considers was offered to the whole Orthodox Eastern Church in his person. He will, on his arrival at Constantinople, announce to the Most Holy Ecumenical Patriarch, to the Blessed Patriarch of Jerusalem, and to all the Prelates of the East the many things pleasing and acceptable to God that he has seen and heard in this country, and for the time to come he will never cease from labouring to bring about the harmony of the Churches.

OUTRAGES IN IRELAND.—On Wednesday morning a man named John Campbell, a butcher, residing at Ship Quay-place, Londonderry, was shot with a revolver by his nephew, a young man named Campbell, who has lately returned from America. It is said the prisoner returned some time ago to claim some property which was left him by his father, and which it is alleged his uncle appropriated. It is not yet known if Mr. Campbell is dangerously wounded. A sergeant of the 20th Regiment was attacked in the town of Tipperary on Monday night by three men, who rendered him senseless by beating him with stones. They then took away his sword and decamped. One of the assailants has been arrested.

THE INCOME TAX.—Through the reduction of the income tax to 4d., as now proposed by Mr. Lowe, the rate of assessment stands at the figure at which it was placed by Mr. Gladstone while Chancellor of the Exchequer, in April, 1865. This was the lowest rate at which the income tax had ever been levied since it was imposed by Sir Robert Peel, in 1842. It continued at 4d. until November, 1867, when the Conservative Ministry raised it to 6d., by way of meeting the expenses of the Abyssinian War. In April, 1868, Mr. Ward Hunt increased the tax to 8d., the cost of the Abyssinian expedition being again pleaded as a reason for the augmentation. Last year Mr. Lowe reduced the impost to 5d., and to 4d., below which figure the income tax is scarcely likely to be levied.

A JUDGE ON TRAMP.—There is no railway between Monmouth and Ross, though one is being made; and the custom of the Judges in passing from Hereford to Monmouth is to post the twelve miles between the latter town and Ross. Last week Baron Martin, who is seventy-six years of age, walked the distance, and he repeated the experiment when passing from Monmouth to Gloucester, declining all offers of a lift from the many barristers who passed him in hired vehicles. We believe that Baron Martin was the Judge who, when travelling the Oxford Circuit some years ago, rode horseback from Monmouth through the Forest of Gloucester, passed unrecognised the sheriff and officials, who were, according to custom, waiting to receive him at Over, and then sent a message that he was waiting to receive them in the city.

HOW TO QUIET MURPHY.—Mr. Murphy is delivering his anti-pope lectures at Woolwich. When we hear that he is being escorted to his lodgings by a body of police and a mounted escort, we cannot help thinking that the ratepayers are unfairly treated by the withdrawal of these men from their natural duties. It is no consolation to a man who is being garrotted in some obscure street to be told that the police constable who ought to have protected him is guarding Mr. Murphy's lodgings. And then, again, it is surely hard on the police themselves, whose leave has, we hear, been entirely stopped during Mr. Murphy's lectures! Who is Mr. Murphy that he should have mounted escorts and a body-guard and cause all this fuss and inconvenience? He is a mere firebrand, as irrational as dangerous. We are not permitted to extinguish him, we know; but surely some restraint should be placed on his vagaries. We presume that it is not intended to give him a body-guard during the term of his natural life, should he insist so long on shocking the feelings of a considerable portion of the population in this country, and cannot himself control the excitement he occasions. It would be only fair to give him notice that after a certain number of lectures he must either pay for the police he employs or be left to his fate.

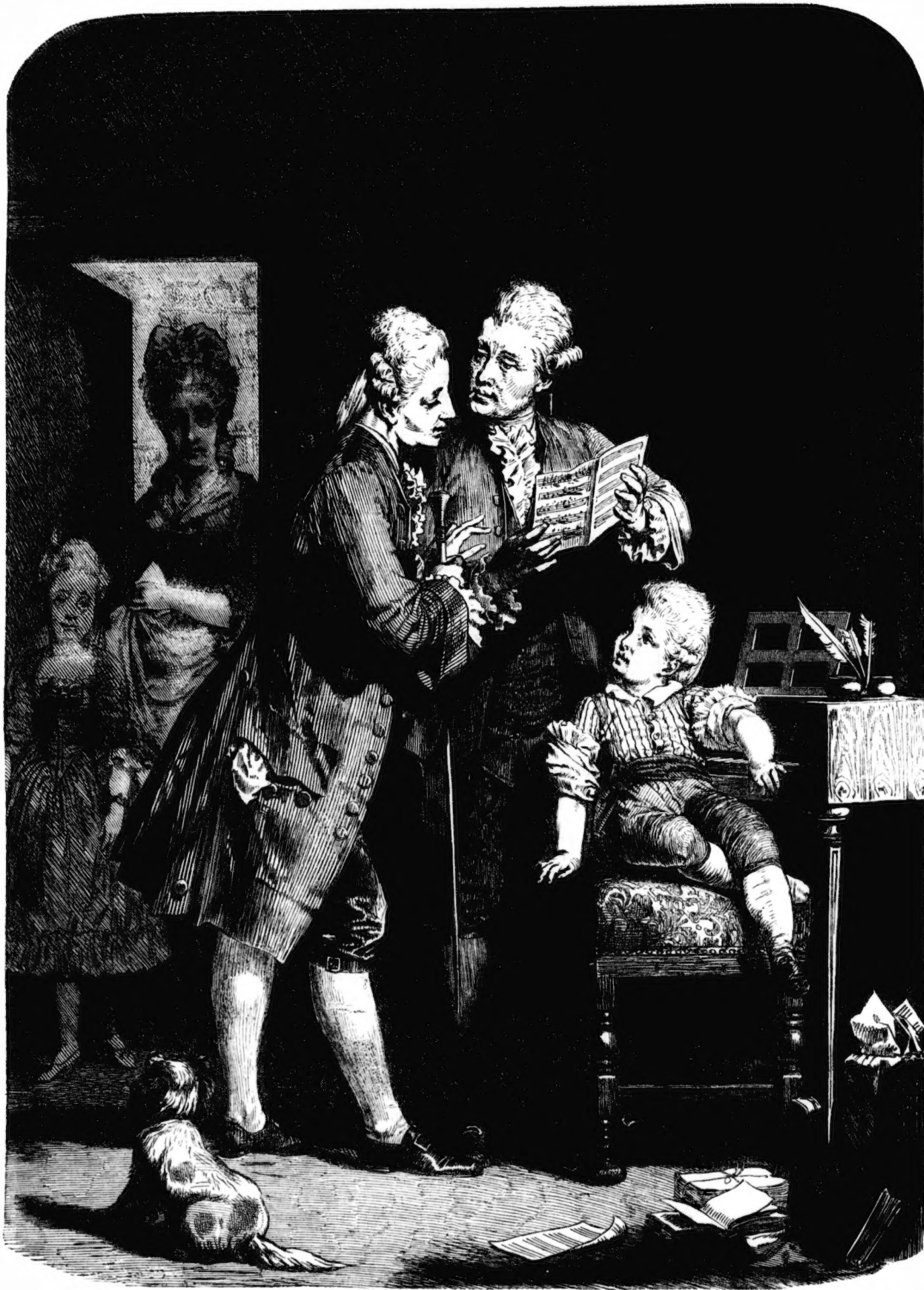
MOZART'S FIRST COMPOSITION.

Who that reads of that wonderful life of Mozart can feel surprised that its early ending should have been connected with something of the supernatural! The only marvel is that the story should have taken the form of a darkly mysterious superstition. One could almost fancy a kind of angelic visitation come to soothe the last hours of the gifted musician, who, like the swan, sang his own death-song at the last; but that any such person as the stranger who came to order a mass, for which he did not call until its foreboding cadence had rung the knell of that bright earthly life, should have grown in popular reference into a mes-

senger from a world of shadows is strange indeed. Rather with lovely forms and brightly beaming apparitions, with sweet unworldly cadences and softly-solemn strains, should we connect any such influence as would be associated even with the last hours of him who came into a heritage of musical genius never owned by any other. That the story has been explained, refuted, disbelieved, is something; but that it ever should have arisen is still remarkable, except we attribute it to an enemy who would try to associate even the last work of the peerless melodist with a trade bargain, and, at the same time, to hint at something rather unnatural than supernatural in a greatness which had been unsurpassed.

It is in the early life of the great composer, however, that our wonderment finds most scope. It is not, perhaps, difficult to picture to ourselves a babe at the pianoforte seeking out harmonies and rejoicing with inarticulate chuckles when it finds a perfect chord; but what are we to do but wonder when we think of a mere babe, a child of five or six years old, completing compositions that were themselves perfect masterpieces as far as they went; and of a boy of eight becoming an author of repute, and publishing works acknowledged (except for the difficulty of their execution) to be finished examples of the composer's art?

Happily, his father, sub-director of the chapel at Salzburg, was himself a man of genius, and his talent was sublimated in his



THE YOUTHFUL MOZART'S FIRST COMPOSITION.—(DRAWING BY HENRY LOSSOW.)

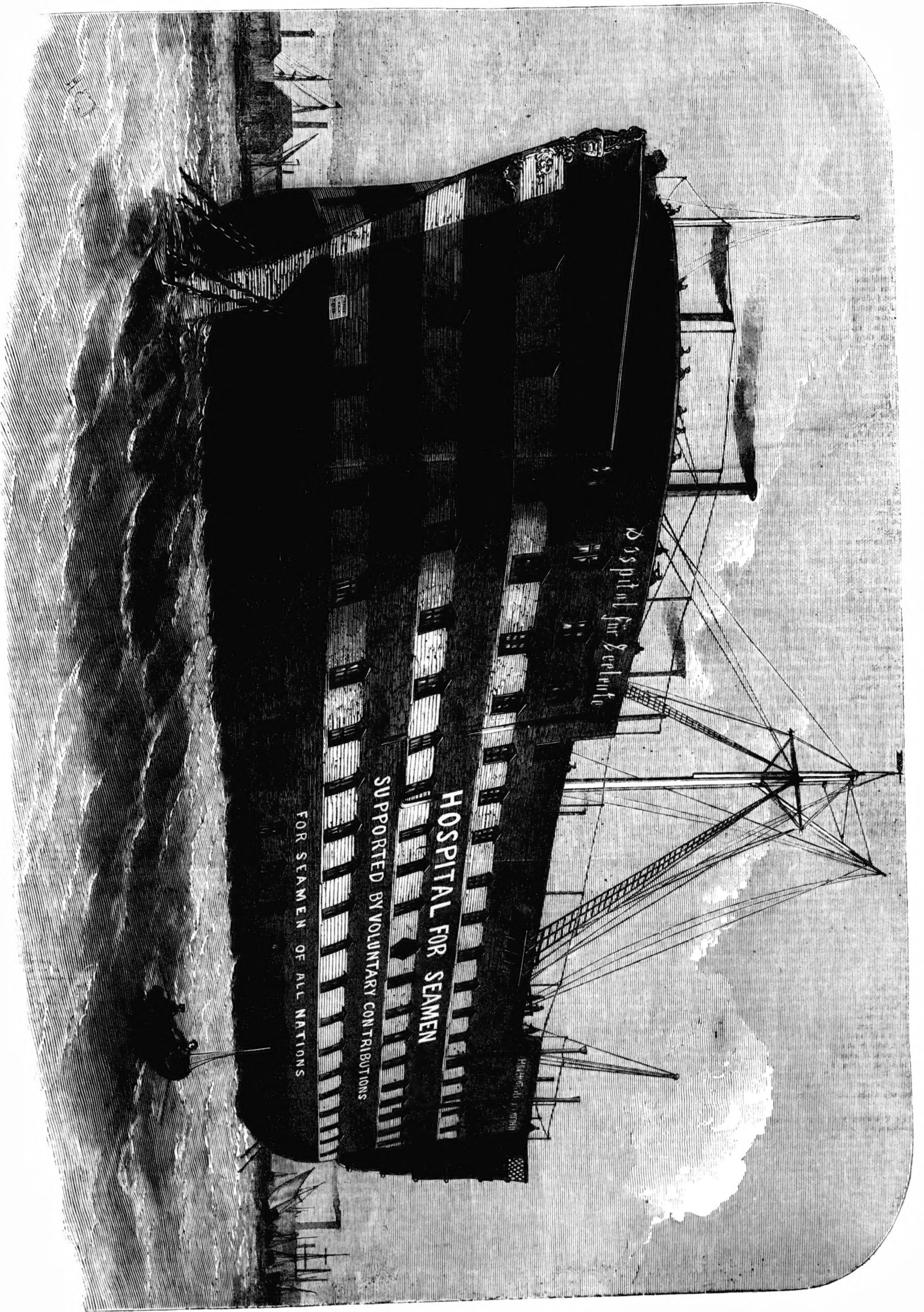
son—this, and a portion of the personal beauty for which both Herr Mozart and his wife were celebrated. Still, it must have been with something of a flutter at the heart that the father showed those first compositions of the infant Wolfgang Gottlieb to the friend who shared his pride and astonishment; with some fearful foreboding, perhaps, that the baby prodigy would not live out his mortal span. Nor did he. He began his life here in infancy and ended it in youth, having, however, done a man's life-work in that space. "The little sorcerer," who played before Francis I. when he was only six years of age, and performed on the organ before the whole French Court in the following year at Paris, where he gave concerts, was not destined to go through seventy or eighty years. When Davies Barrington wrote a description of his extraordinary performances, which was read before the Royal Society, and still occupies a place in those musty old volumes of "Transactions," he had begun his career, in which these are steps: six sonatas dedicated to the Queen at nine years old; a complete opera, by desire of the Emperor Joseph, at

twelve; director of the Archbishop of Salzburg's concerts at fourteen; the order of the Golden Spur conferred by the Pope at sixteen; in the midst of a great career and deeply in love with the charming Constance Weber at twenty-four; full of ardour, and at work on the great opera of "Idomeneo," to prove his talent, and so claim the hand of the fair and celebrated artiste whose friends had doubted his position. Then followed "Figaro," "Don Giovanni," "The Magic Flute," and (the same year as this last) "La Clemenza di Tito," first sung during the coronation of Leopold II. The musician had been crowned long before, and his triumphal career, short but brilliant, was drawing to a close. Short! Well, it began when he was six years old and lasted thirty years. Who can count more than thirty years of earnest successful work and triumphal success? He died in the year after that last strain—died in Vienna, at the age of thirty-six, while there were many still living who had not yet forgotten to regard Wolfgang Gottlieb Mozart as the wonderful baby composer who had but yesterday astonished the world.

THE DREADNOUGHT SEAMEN'S HOSPITAL, GREENWICH.

As the well-known floating hospital for seamen at Greenwich is now about to be abandoned, the patients having been transferred to the portion of Greenwich Hospital—Queen Mary's Quarter—assigned to the society by the Lords of the Admiralty, a view of the good old ship, in which so much suffering has been relieved and so much kindly service rendered to seamen in distress, will be interesting to our readers, and, we hope, may help to excite their sympathies and evoke their help to one of the most valuable and efficient institutions in existence.

The "Seamen's Hospital Society" owes its origin to the committee appointed to manage the fund subscribed in the winter of 1817-18 for the temporary relief of distressed seamen, who were at that time to be found in great numbers in the streets of the metropolis. That committee convened a public meeting on March 8, 1821, at the City of London Tavern, at which it was determined that a permanent floating hospital should be estab-



THE DREADNOUGHT HOSPITAL-SHIP, AT GREENWICH.

lished on the river Thames for the use of sick and diseased seamen only, to be supported by voluntary subscriptions, under the management of a committee; and the present hospital was accordingly established on board the *Grampus* (a 50-gun ship), moored off Greenwich; but, the *Grampus* not being large enough to accommodate the numerous applicants for admission, the Government, in the year 1830, exchanged her for the *Dreadnought* (104-gun ship), which was fitted up by the society for that purpose in 1831. This vessel, in 1857, was replaced by H.M.S. *Caledonia* (120 guns), and her name altered to *Dreadnought*.

The munificent bequest of the late John Lydekker, Esq., in 1832, induced the committee in the following year to obtain an Act of Incorporation; this Act empowers the committee either to build a hospital on shore, or to continue their establishment afloat.

The establishment on board the *Dreadnought* is placed precisely on the footing of other hospitals, with a superintendent, surgeons, assistant surgeon, visiting physicians, assistant physician, apothecary, chaplain, &c. The ship is moored off Greenwich, being the most central and eligible situation that could be found, contiguous to the bulk of the shipping in the docks and in the stream, where accidents of every description are continually happening; it is the only place provided for the reception of sick seamen arriving from abroad, or to whom accidents may happen on the water between the mouth of the river and London Bridge. The Royal Humane Society has presented a complete apparatus for the recovery of suspended animation, which is kept in constant readiness. Sick seamen of every nation, on presenting themselves alongside, are immediately received, without the necessity of any recommendatory letters—their own apparent condition being sufficient to obtain their admission.

The following observations, extracted from the different reports of the committee, will serve to convey an idea of the usefulness of this institution:—

"The very peculiar character of seamen can be known to those only who have passed much time amongst them. Sailors in general are bred up to their occupation from early youth, and retain few of the habits of persons employed on shore. Their great failing, and the principal occasion of their misfortune, is an almost total absence of foresight and of consideration for the morrow. They appear to have no conception of the possible approach of misery until it is too late to escape it; and when at length they become subject to its visitation, they are appalled and sink beneath the weight.

"The rules and regulations by which other hospitals are governed limit the period which the patients are permitted to remain in them to that of their requiring medical treatment; which is generally sufficient, as the objects to whom their beneficence is extended have homes to receive them after cure, and friends to support and comfort them, whilst, on the contrary, a sailor who, although relieved from his complaint, is discharged in a weak condition, is without a home to go to or a place to yield him a night's repose. In this respect the regulations of the Seamen's Hospital are essentially different, every man being allowed to remain on board in a state of convalescence until he has completely regained his health and strength; and in the interim an opportunity is afforded him of obtaining employment.

"It may also be mentioned that seamen when they return home in ill-health frequently fall into the hands of ignorant wretches, who fill them with pernicious drugs as long as their money lasts, and then turn them out half naked, and in a worse condition than when they received them, to perish with cold and hunger in the streets."

"Instances are constantly occurring of seamen driven into a life of vagrancy by diseases originating in distress and privation: persons of this description are nevertheless received on board the *Dreadnought*, if deserving; and where, in order to prevent infection, it is found necessary to destroy the rags which cover them, the men are provided with new clothing, and are thus enabled to resume their vocations."

"If in the performance of the gratifying duty of bringing the Seamen's Hospital into greater notice, the committee may be allowed to express a regret, it is, that while poor and friendless seamen, from every quarter of the globe, are conveying to their countrymen a knowledge of the benefits of this institution, its very existence, it is to be feared, is still unknown to many in this great metropolis, whose wealth and importance have arisen from the exertions of those on whose behalf this appeal is now made."

The circumstances under which the floating hospital has been abandoned and the institution established on shore may be briefly stated, though the arrangements have been the subject of long negotiations and the theme of much discussion. Experience having shown that a floating hospital, even when a large ship was devoted to the purpose, was not well adapted for the treatment and cure of disease; and the *Dreadnought*, large as she is, having proved insufficient for the accommodation of the patients applying for the society's aid, it was determined that an hospital should be erected on shore. A site was accordingly purchased; but, before any further steps were taken, the Admiralty having determined upon a change in the system of management of Greenwich Hospital, involving the granting of out-pensions and the consequent dispersal of the inmates, large portions of the national institution became untenanted, and an application was made for a portion of the building for the use of the Seamen's Hospital Society. The portion of Greenwich Hospital known as Queen Anne's Quarter, which abuts upon the river, was that desired by the committee of the society. Difficulties, however, were raised by the Admiralty as to granting this particular portion, into the merits of which we do not care now to enter; and Queen Mary's Quarter was offered instead. This offer the society at first hesitated to accept, as it was believed that a large outlay—estimated at about £27,000—would be necessary to adapt the wing to the purposes of an hospital for sick inmates. Further consideration, however, induced the committee to accept the Admiralty offer of Queen Mary's Quarter, and to dispense with the large expenditure at one time deemed necessary, although still of opinion that a grant of Queen Anne's Quarter would have been more suitable. Accordingly, the needful arrangements having been made, and the building altered so as to adapt it as nearly as possible for the society's purposes without incurring great expense, the patients were removed to their new quarters on Wednesday last. We have only to add that we hope the Seamen's Hospital Society, in their new and more permanent premises, will continue to be as efficiently managed as heretofore (it could not well be better), that it will receive a still larger measure of support from the public, and that so long as suffering seamen need a refuge and help its doors will ever be open to them, no matter whence they come or to what nation they belong. Of this we are certain, that the "Old *Dreadnought*" will live in the grateful recollection of thousands who have received help in their distress and cure of their ailments within its "wooden walls."

THE NORWICH BRIBERY PROSECUTIONS.—It appears that Mr. Justice Blackburn, who passed sentence upon Robert Hardiment on his conviction for bribery at the last Norwich (eighth ward) municipal election, has declined to make an order placing him in the first class of misdemeanants. The prisoner has consequently been relegated to the prison dress, and is treated as an ordinary misdemeanant. As he is a man who has been accustomed to the comforts of life—having been a tradesman in a fair way of business—Hardiment has been much "cut up" by his new position, and his friends propose to obtain, if possible, a mitigation of his sentence.

A SWEDISH SCHOOL ROOM.—M. Fahnehjelm, the Swedish commissioner for the forthcoming series of annual international exhibitions, has applied for permission to exhibit a full-sized model of a school room, just as it exists in the country parishes in Sweden, with all the books, maps, apparatus, forms, desks, &c. in order to give a complete idea of the Swedish system of elementary instruction. Her Majesty's Commissioners will, there can be no doubt, gladly place sufficient space at the disposal of the Swedish commissioner for so interesting an exhibit. It is to be hoped that encouragement will be given to other countries to follow this excellent example. An easy comparison of international appliances for educational purposes would be most useful to visitors to the exhibition, and would be a social and stimulating to the countries exhibiting.

THE LOUNGER.

THE Easter holidays have come. The House of Commons stands adjourned to the 25th, and Gladstone has not yet got the third clause of his Irish Land Bill through Committee. He flattered himself that he should get the whole bill passed through Committee, and out of the sixty-eight or seventy clauses, he has only got two clauses passed. Nay, only one, for the second clause is expunged, and clause 3 is now really clause 2. This looks as if the bill would founder and never get into port. But there is this to be said. The first three or four clauses are by far the most important. If they could but get passed, more rapid progress would be made; at least, so it is said. But it is observable to all who are experienced in party movements that the Conservatives are not honestly criticising this bill, but are plotting to hinder its advance in every possible way. Not merely by making long and unnecessary speeches upon the bill itself, but also by speaking against time on all other subjects—playing, in fact, the game which they so successfully played in 1860, when Lord John Russell's Reform Bill was before the House. At one morning sitting last week, Lord Claud Hamilton deliberately talked the bill out. Shame on him for so doing! A Lord ought to scorn such manœuvring. Some say that the majority of the Conservatives do not intend by this policy to prevent the passing of this bill; but, by delaying it, to shunt the Ballot and the Universities Bills. But, if this be so, what fools they are, if they could but see it! The Ballot must come; it is inevitable as doom, and so must the passing of the Universities Tests Bill. And what can it matter whether they come this year or next? My opinion is that we shall not get either of these measures this year, nor do I greatly care about the matter. Knowing well that, as sure as the summer follows the winter, all University tests will be abolished, and vote by ballot will be the law, a year or two's delay is to me of little consequence.

Forster's Education Bill is hung up or shunted to let the Irish Land Bill pass, and its prospects are not brilliant. When the House shall meet again one third of the Session will be gone. It will certainly take another month to wriggle that Irish Land omnibus through Temple Bar. We shall be then in the middle of May, with all the Estimates to get voted. Mr. Forster is disconsolate, as well he may be. He had set his mind to do this stroke of work and make himself a name. The Cabinet did not think that it would be possible to get an Education Bill passed this Session, but he persuaded them to let him try; and now to see his bill thus imperilled and all his sanguine hopes likely to be disappointed, is not pleasant. Mr. Bright was blamed and thought to be too despondent when he foretold that to pass a Land Bill would be very difficult; but he spoke not unadvisedly. He knew the character of the Irish Land Bill; those who censured him did not. Moreover, he knows the House of Commons better than most men, and has had to feel many times the obstructive power of a dogged, obstinate Tory opposition.

Meanwhile what a Herculean task our Prime Minister has to perform! To work the Irish Church Bill through the House was exceedingly difficult, but this job is vastly more difficult. Besides, he had help last year. There was Bright on his left; the accomplished, clever, ever-ready Irish Solicitor-General, Mr. Sullivan, on his right. But now he may be said to stand alone. Bright is *hors de combat*.

Of Mr. Serjeant Dowse's assistance, Mr. Gladstone, for sufficient reason no doubt, does not often avail himself; and Mr. Chichester Portescue, always in his place, and willing to bear a hand, is confessedly not strong. And so the labour almost entirely falls upon the Prime Minister's shoulders; and though his power, his knowledge, his skill are well-nigh superhuman, the work is frightfully hard. Then his followers are not all loyal to him. Some of them pester him with what they call amendments. Clever Mr. Fowler, the other day, introduced one, which, though it was ultimately defeated, taxed his chief's resources a good deal, and occupied much valuable time. This, by-the-way, is William Fowler, M.P. for Cambridge, not Robert of Penrhyn. William is a Liberal, Robert a Tory. These two are cousins, and both bankers, though of different firms. William is an able man; Robert, we would decide from his exhibitions in the House, not so able. Sir Roundell Palmer, too, has scruples, and feels bound to give them voice. Pity he is not Attorney-General, as in such case he would put his scruples in his pocket; perhaps, indeed, defend the very provisions which he now so sharply criticises. What will come of all this, it is impossible to say. But two things strike me: first, Gladstone, if he has to put aside all other measures mentioned in the Queen's speech, will get this through; second, I do not think that Disraeli will countenance any serious attempts ultimately to destroy the bill. Rumour says that at a meeting of a committee of Conservatives appointed to watch the bill, a resolution was passed to resist it to the bitter end; but I do not believe that this is true. All that was decided upon, I think, was to insist upon freedom of contract, first in the House of Commons, and, failing there, then again in the Lords. Mr. Disraeli proposed an amendment to this effect, and was defeated. This attempt will be renewed in the Upper House, and will probably succeed. The House of Commons will, of course, disagree to the amendment. Will the Lords finally insist? I do not believe they will; for, if they were to do this, Mr. Gladstone would throw up the bill and resign. Will the Lords brave such a crisis, with all its consequences? No; they helped to plant the tree of household suffrage, and must eat the fruit, however unpalatable it may be.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The brightest event in an irregular theatrical week has been the revival of "New Men and Old Acres" at the Haymarket, and with it of course has returned Miss Madge Robertson, in many respects the most important young actress on the stage. Dating the theatrical year from Easter-time, and seeing that Easter is so near at hand again, I think I may safely say that this Haymarket comedy is the greatest treat I have had. On the whole, the year has not been overburdened with brilliant works; and this comedy, though not brilliant at all, is pleasant, refreshing, and far above the average of modern stage plays. The dialogue is polished and refined, and the story healthy and interesting. Besides, the play has the additional merit of being extremely well acted. Miss Madge Robertson, as I have before hinted, has at once jumped to the front. All this clever young lady requires is practice. She has plenty of intelligence, and, if anything, too much enthusiasm. She is young, and has everything before her. Indeed, she has very few rivals in the important characters of high comedy, for which she will, of course, lay herself out. Then we have Mr. Howe, that most useful and intelligent of actors, who bears his years as well as a Lafont or Charles Mathews, although, of course, he is considerably younger than either. Add to these Mr. and Mrs. Chippendale, unequalled in their respective business; Mr. Buckstone and Mrs. Fitzwilliam, admirably suited with characters; and Miss Caroline Hill, who plays contralto to the sopranos of the day as well as any young lady in London. This week the comedy has been supplemented by "No Song, No Supper," an old musical farce, which is rightly revived at such a theatre as the Haymarket. Mr. Kendal, among others, plays very cleverly in it.

The benefit performances were one and all successful. Miss Neilson's Juliet—or rather the little bit of it she gave at Mr. Montague's benefit—has created a furore; and I see a gushing letter in the *Morning Post* asking why Shakespeare is neglected with such an actress to play him. Extravagance of this kind is, no doubt, justifiable when we see so few good actresses and so little of Shakespeare; and, though I am not prepared to dub myself a blind enthusiast, I know very well how Miss Neilson can play Juliet; for years ago, at the Royalty, when quite an amateur, I saw her act the character only second to Stella Colas. Mr. Montague, as Romeo, will very shortly be in all the photographers' shops.

A charming little play, very popular at the Français, called

"Gringoire," was cleverly adapted, under the title of "The King's Pleasure," for the great Gaiety amateur performance of Tuesday. It went so well and was so beautifully mounted that I hope it will soon be unearthed again. Miss Ada Cavendish played capriciously, and quite sustained her "home" reputation. The amateurs were represented, among others, by Messrs. Bolton Rowe, Bryce, Perronet, Lowe, Tryor, &c., names well enough known in connection with the Windsor Strollers, Old Stagers, and A.D.C. clubs. The performance was for the benefit of the London Orphan Asylum.

I see that another "Frou-Frou" hare has been started. The St. James's, notwithstanding the Olympic announcement, intends to have a "Frou-Frou" of its own. But mark the manner in which the St. James's "Frou-Frou" is announced:—"In compliance with numerous requests, Mrs. John Wood has consented to suspend for the present the revival of the old comedies in order to present, by way of contrast, an adaptation of the latest Parisian sensation." Any notion of contrast between Goldsmith or Sheridan and M.M. Meilhac and Halévy appears to me ridiculous. What Frenchman considers "Frou-Frou" a standard work? It is merely the folly of the hour. To translate or adapt "Frou-Frou" is just as silly as to put "The School for Scandal" or "She Stoops to Conquer" into French. English audiences will not understand "Frou-Frou" if it is tampered with in the least; and if it is not tampered with, how will English audiences stand the scene in Venice, when Gilberte left her husband and is living under the protection of her lover, Valréas? We shall see. I notice with pleasure that in both versions the word "Frou-Frou" is to be preserved. The word is simply untranslatable. It means the rustle of a silk dress or of well-starched petticoats against the floor; or, as a gallant young lover says to the lady in question, "I am quite sure that when you are asleep your guardian angel gently rustles his wings with that delicious sound—'Frou-Frou!'"

THE INVENTOR OF TELEGRAPHY.

THE name of Mr. Francis Ronalds was lately recorded as having received the honour of knighthood. Who is Mr. Francis Ronalds? was a question more likely to be asked than answered. Mr. Ronalds is neither more nor less than the originator of our telegraph system. To him does not, indeed, belong the merit of having been the first to conceive the idea of conveying signs to distant places by means of electricity; that was suggested by more than one person in the last century, but never put into a practical shape. Mr. Ronalds, however, was the very first, either here or abroad, to invent an electric telegraph so constructed as to be capable of extensive practical application, and so far back as 1825 he fully developed its principle and mode of action. Still earlier—viz., in 1816, he had constructed a working electric telegraph, and on offering it to the then Government received an answer which can never be too often cited as an illustration of official complacency:—"Telegraphs of any kind are now wholly unnecessary, and no other than the one now in use will be adopted." Nothing daunted by this apathy, Mr. Ronalds matured his invention, and, in 1823, published a "Description of an Electric Telegraph and of some other Electrical Apparatus," in which, after fully describing his invention with figures and diagrams, he predicted in these striking words the uses to which it was capable of being applied:—"Why should not our Kings hold Councils at Brighton with their Ministers in London? Why should not our Government govern at Portsmouth almost as promptly as in Downing-street? Why should our defaulters escape by reason of our foggy climate? Let us have electrical conversazione offices all over the kingdom if we can. Give me material enough, and I will electrify the world." Mr. Ronalds was too far ahead of his time and too purely a man of science to secure a hearing for his discovery in these early days; and it was left to others to mature his idea, and to establish the system which his prophetic eye had foreseen would one day transform the world. It was not till 1837, fourteen years after Mr. Ronalds's pamphlet, that Messrs. Cooke and Wheatstone took out their first patent. The science and practical skill of these and other eminent electricians have brought electric communication to its present advanced state; but the great fact remains that Mr. Ronalds was the first to demonstrate practically the principle which they have developed. At last, thanks to Mr. Gladstone's sympathy with genius, the special merits of Mr. Ronalds as a pioneer in this great field of action have received a public recognition. Mr. Ronald, although still an active devotee of science, is now in very advanced age.

A WONDERFUL EXPLOIT.—A woman slept in Stonehouse Workhouse, Plymouth, on Sunday night, aged ninety-two years. She had walked from Greenock to Truro (Devon), leaving the former place six weeks before Christmas last. Her walk occupied her eleven weeks and four days; and she is now on her way back to Scotland, having left Truro on Monday week. The woman states, in proof of her age, that she was born in the 92nd Regiment, and that in the year 1798 the regiment was sent to Ireland during the rebellion. At that time she was nineteen years of age.

THE LOSS OF THE NORMANDY.—The Board of Trade inquiry into the loss of the mail steamer *Normandy* was brought to a close on Monday. The Court decided that the *Normandy*, by a breach of the regulations for preventing collisions at sea, was solely to blame for the disastrous occurrence. The magistrate and assessors were further of opinion that the master of the *Mary* did all that lay in his power to avoid a collision and to save life, and therefore returned to him his certificate. At the same time the Court adversely commented on the irresolute conduct of the second mate of the *Mary*, when dispatched to render assistance to the *Normandy*. Had he obeyed the orders given to him, more lives might possibly have been saved.

H.M.S. VANGUARD.—The trial of this monster armour-plated broadside twin-screw frigate was completed on Saturday last, when she attained a speed of 15 knots per hour, the greatest speed ever got on a deep-level line by any ironclad in her Majesty's service. One of the most important advantages of the twin-screw principle has been tried by making two runs over one mile with only one engine, supposing the other to be disabled, and it was from that the port engine drove the vessel. The first mile was done in 5 min. 18 sec., the second in 5 min. 10 sec., making a mean speed of 11.657 knots, the revolutions being seventy-two per minute and the indicated horse-power 2900. The steering qualities of the ship were tested by making circles at full and half power, from the action of the rudder alone, and afterwards by the screws alone, the rudder being left amidships. It was found that at full speed a half circle was made in 2 min. 4 sec., and a full circle in 4 min. 4 sec., the diameter of the circle described being about half a mile. With the screws alone, one engine going ahead and the other astern, the vessel made a complete circle in 5 min. 10 sec., the circle being completed in her own length. On Saturday she made her trial trip of six hours' continuous steaming at full speed with the most satisfactory results, the engines maintaining an average of 72½ revolutions, and the ship a speed of 14½ knots.

THE COLLECTION OF TAXES.—The boon which Mr. Lowe has in store for us would be better appreciated if a knowledge of the history of English taxation were more widely diffused. Our present fiscal system cannot be faultless; but, at any rate, it is a vast improvement upon the Georgian plan, and an immeasurable advance upon that pursued in earlier times. For instance, the popular objection urged against the income tax is its "inquisitorial" character, but the principle upon which it is based is so ancient as to justify us in calling it thoroughly English. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries all personal and movable property was the subject of taxation, but the method of assessment became more and more searching in every successive reign. Under King John each owner swore to the value of his property before the itinerant justices; in the next reign he was compelled to swear not only to the amount of his own effects but to that of his two next neighbours, and the assessment was submitted to commissioners specially appointed by the justices. Under the Edwards a fresh change was made, and a certain number of the inhabitants of each township was chosen by the Crown to inquire into the value of the movables possessed by each household, the term "movable" including not only corn, cattle, and merchandise, but money, fuel, furniture, wearing apparel, &c. Tollage was paid upon the whole value, though some allowance was made for "necessaries," defined according to the station of the taxpayer. Knights and esquires were not obliged to return their armour and horses; and persons of lower rank were exempted from payment on one suit of clothes, one bed, one ring, and a few other articles. Complaints were frequent that the collectors entered and searched every apartment in people's houses; and in the returns which have been preserved not only is every article mentioned but the very room in which it was found.—*Full Mail Gazette*.

Literature.

My Time: including Personal Reminiscences of
By GEORGE HODDER, Author of "Sketches of
Character," &c. London: Tinsley Brothers.

There is a well-worn simile, Mr. Hodder has ventured on; but years have given him the tact to skim the surface, and run little risk of going much below it, at least under the addition of things known as "over head and heels." But, as venturesome writers should take heed how they tread their footsteps. They may not be clever enough to do so. Of course we do not mean such nonsense as never to the water until you have learnt to swim, or of not until you are able to start off fair with a figure of eight. Nature is a kind of hot water with which it is frequently as to deal; and when it comes to writing not about things in the memory of men still living, but about men still themselves, and who will have admirably-good memories of personal accounts which do not happen to hit their own pen and favourite nails on the exact spot which they would have their own heads, why then, the writers of "Memories," London Correspondents, the *Flâneurs*, &c., are likely to considerably more attention than they ever courted. Observations are suggested simply by the excellent way in which Mr. Hodder finds himself able to write page after page of theatres and books, actors and journalists, with a pleasant and all and scarcely an unpleasant reminiscence of one. And, repeat "no followers allowed," it is only in the interest of duty that we have some shadow of care for the possible errors to be committed by such followers.

Through Mr. Hodder's portly volume is almost as good as to the United States. At every page you meet "one of our old men, I reckon." But then the greatest man is not found in the wooden nutmegs in a store, nor—as a colonel and cheese-maker—forming plans for chawing up the Old Country. The great men of Mr. Hodder's pages are generally to be found in their own homes, or at the seaside, or here, there, and everywhere in the pursuit of business, health, or pleasure. And admirably will the mind of the outer world be relieved from a ghastly idea which it has always entertained with regard to the character of men of genius. They, the outer world, know nothing about literature proper and the ways which attend it, even from Isaac Disraeli; and they mix up their own and blackguardism, in their own congenial, mortar-like mud, from what Macaulay wrote concerning the unhappy Grub-street of Johnson's earlier days. Mr. Hodder has "changed" that, and has done so, too, without in the least trenching on the severely reprobated province of N. P. Willis, years ago. No; the great men of London and thereabouts—surely there is more "thereabouts" in London itself than can possibly be outside it—the great men are shown in their own homes as they lived or live, and the picture seems almost too domestic to suggest greatness. Mr. Hodder shows us—for easy and once-comprehensible instances—Douglas Jerrold, Thackeray, and, modified, Mr. Dickens, with all their finest qualities about them, and ever connected with some cause which can scarcely fail to have interest for all who ever saw "Time Works Wonders," or read "The Story of a Feather," "Esmond," and "David Copperfield." In their habit as they lived or live, indeed, but yet with such little bits that can suggest the slightest ill-natured mirth or irony, but always with a reverent, a fervid regard for literature, rare and amongst those who are supposed to "bite their brothers in the thigh." No man a hero to his valet-de-chambre, indeed! And because the valet soul cannot see the heroic, &c. Why, our author seems to glory in playing second fiddle. And he does it with the fidelity of Boswell. The intimate friend of those mentioned above, associated with them in the world's work in various ways, and with dozens more distinguished in various ways, Mr. Hodder has clearly been content to let his happy days slip by in sweet society, and suddenly awakes to find himself famous—in friendships! So was Fulke Greville with his solitary Sidney; but here are Sidneys by the score.

It need not be said that the author of "Memories of My Time" gives nothing like biographies of the eminent people with whom he has come in contact through business or friendship. Biographies of living men do not answer, nor even of those somewhat recently deceased. And this reminds us of an anecdote, as President Lincoln would have said. An eminent modern sculptor holds a position that no statue or bust should be executed until at least a hundred years after the original's death. For why? Because in that time all the man's faults and misfortunes will have been forgotten. It will be possible, he thinks, to represent Nelson as the hero of Trafalgar (at least) with the ordinary pair of arms and an average allowance of eyes; and, perhaps, with no dark shadows called up by Emma Hamilton and Admiral Carracioli. All these things, our artistic friend imagines, will be forgotten by Oct. 21, 1895, and then the sculptor can go to work. A pretty notion, but; but then, after centuries, who forgets how Horace was tall and fat, and coughed; how immortal Maro languished in the desert; and how great Homer died three thousand years ago? Here is the fatal triumph of literature, even by tradition, over art.

Of course, from a book which is at once personal and anecdotal, it is impossible to extract anything for the reader's benefit. The quantity and the variety make it hopeless. The chapters about Douglas Jerrold are replete with interest, domestic yet full of the world, and melancholy at the close. The greater part of this, however, is well known through Mr. Blanchard Jerrold's life of his father. The passages about Thackeray put him in many more variable lights than those who knew him, and those who did but guess him, could dream; and Mr. Dickens seems to have mingled his kindness and his courtesy in a style which nobody who has ever been near that gentleman could doubt. For others, it must not be forgotten that there is a lifelike sketch of Leigh Hunt; an interesting passage about Thomas Hood, with the whole story about *Punch*, and nobody, whatever they may have heard, must dare to give again the stupid stories in circulation; together with Mr. Jerrold's own original prospectus. Vincent Wallace meets with a minute recollection, and Mr. Sala may, perhaps, wonder at the pages dedicated to him. Almost forgotten men—Angus Reach, for instance—are revived here; and Albert Smith, who is remembered as having made a commotion in society, furnishes the subject of many amusing pages.

Purpose and Passion, being Pugnacious and other Poems. By KENINGALE ROBERT COOK, B.A. London: Virtue and Co.

Mr. Cook must not measure either the interest we take in his volume, or the value we attach to it, as what he calls "prentice work," by the space we devote to it. There is, indeed, something about both his prose and his verse which strongly appeals to serious readers; and, even if this were not so, to appreciate a first book of poetry demands a considerable effort, unless the workmanship be utterly below the level at which difference of opinion begins. Certainly, that is not the case in the present instance.

Mr. Cook writes a very long—may we, inoffensively, say a very Russeian?—preface, which at once commands the reader's sympathy, even though the writing may be found too grave and too high-pitched for the occasion—which is no doubt a fault on the whole. With the footnote upon the scope of art with reference to didacticism we agree upon the whole, and only regret that there should be so much misunderstanding upon a very simple matter. No sane human being ever supposed that absolutely pure art was generally possible, or that "indirect" teaching could be excluded. The poet's moral and spiritual qualities, of necessity, suffuse his work. All that the art-purists—among whom we include ourselves—mean to say is, that, as a matter of definition, pure art is pure creation, and of necessity, pure morality, which is a form of criticism. Undoubtedly, too, in our own time, the prevalent tendency, if Mr. Ter-

critical. So that the reaction is not without excuse. Nor is there any fear that, among a people like the English, in a day of excessive speculation, the leaning towards pure art should be carried too far. Speaking, however, without reference to any theory whatever (and no one can be less "hide-bound" than we are in matters of theory, though a definition is, "as one should say," a definition), we think Mr. Cook's poetry, in general, over-weighted with moral and speculative elements. That it is "Russeian" the author cannot help, for he appears to have been a Rugby boy; he will, perhaps, not even know that peculiar flavour *aura*, or mannerism, which at once tells you where "a Rugby fellow" hails from. But we really believe that if the volume had been laid before us *without* the poem which lets the cat out of the bag, we should at once have said, "Rugby, by all that's obvious!" How shall we describe the colour to which we refer? It appears to come from a sort of over-strained consciousness of the part the individual has to play in the world, and an incessant reference to "purpose," which discloses itself in something like what Cervantes calls the *reposada voz* of "Don Quixote."

The poems themselves we have carefully looked at, reading some of them right through, and with real pleasure. And we have no doubt whatever of the substantial justice of what follows. Mr. Cook cannot be taken to have conclusively shown us that his natural destination is *song*; but he has gone so far as to make us leave the question open. This is a great deal to say. He has high poetic feeling, a share of poetic vision, much culture, and great power of refined and thoughtful expression. If none of his poems give us full content, taking them on their own pretensions, it may possibly be our own fault; though we think not. The verse is too often a little rugged.

The poems which please us best are "Ex Antro," "Luna," and "Three Stages." Those in which great lightness of touch is required are failures; but nobody will make acquaintance with Mr. Cook without feeling the better and the happier for having encountered so fine a spirit, so nobly addressed to an arduous and well-conceived task. We hope to meet this gentleman again, and that his next volume will enable us to settle the question which the present leaves open.

Lettice Lisle. By the Author of "Stone Edge." Illustrated. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

This is what we consider a really good novel; for, without being pretentious, it has several excellent features to recommend it. It is a novel, it contains an admirably-told story, which, being "complete in one volume" (a plan, by-the-by, that is worthy of imitation as well as approval), the author has been subject neither to the temptation nor necessity of "spinning out" by the introduction of irrelevant matter, inane dialogue, and would-be-wise disquisition, as is too often the wont of writers of novels in the so-called "orthodox three volumes." Item, it has for heroine a thoroughly sweet, gentle, and lovable girl, whose merits are natural and all her own, and not the result either of what was "done for her by her godfathers and godmothers at her baptism" or of "preachy-preachy" afterwards, as is generally the case with the heroines of the "goody-goody" school of novels. Item, it furnishes a very lifelike picture of the manners and ways of thinking, speaking, and acting characteristic of the rural and seafaring population in the south of England fifty years since, when "fair trading (*id est*, smuggling) was carried on pretty extensively on the coast, and to engage in which was not uncommonly thought a merit rather than a crime. Item, it is written with a laudable purpose—namely, to preserve the language once common in the district in which its action is laid. "Lettice Lisle," indeed, is the last of three stories the author has written with the view of attempting to "save some relics of speech and thought still remaining from old days, but which are disappearing rapidly before advancing civilisation." Quoting Ralph Higden, a monk of Chester, who lived under Edward III., and died about 1362, the author points out that after the decline of French, "there were three speeches in England, the northern, the midland, and south country." The first and third, we are further told, "continue still very distinctly marked, while the second has much ado to keep apart from its encroaching neighbours." The northern and midland styles of speech the author has already illustrated in other works; that of the south-country Saxons inhabiting the neighbourhood of the New Forest is successfully portrayed in "Lettice Lisle." We say successfully portrayed, for there cannot be a doubt that the tongue in which the personages who figure in the book speak is the genuine old Saxon-English, precisely the same language at bottom as is still used by the Saxon-descended inhabitants of the southern, western, and central districts of Scotland—a circumstance which shows not only that the Lowland Scots and the Saxon "Southrons" were, after all, the same people, but that both have preserved much of their common mother tongue and "folk lore," with only such modifications and divergencies as were naturally to be expected from variations of circumstances and associations. The present writer, being a full Scot, both by birth and breeding, and being tolerably conversant with the speech prevalent in the portion of North Britain referred to, has had no difficulty in understanding almost every term used by the characters in "Lettice Lisle," a fact which he takes to be strong confirmation of the close relationship that existed among the inhabitants of the specially Saxon regions of England and of his native country. This, of course, is no new discovery, as every Scottish student of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Spenser knows. Lastly, neither lords, nor baronets, nor knights, nor other personages of "high degree," figure in the pages of "Lettice Lisle," the dramatic personage of which simply belong to the yeomen and nautical classes of people in the "south country," and all, heroine included, think the thoughts, live the lives, and use the language characteristic of their country fifty years ago, and it may be still (smuggling perhaps excepted). As for the story itself, it is, though only concerned with simple folk, deeply interesting, and, as we have said, exceedingly well told. We shall not forestall the reader's enjoyment by giving any indication of either plot or narrative, and shall simply say that we could have wished pretty Lettice a husband of more energy and decision of character than "that young Wallcott," though it must be allowed that he is, if far from perfect, a better fellow than he might have been, considering the influences under which he was brought up. Lettice's two uncles, Amys and Job, are each in their way capital delineations; as is also "Aunt May," the pilot's wife of Edney's Chine, for whose kindly and helpful character, by-the-way, we could find parallels in our early recollections of the Saxon matrons of Clydesdale. It is proper to add, that "Lettice Lisle" originally appeared in the pages of the *Cornhill Magazine*, and that the fact is duly notified.

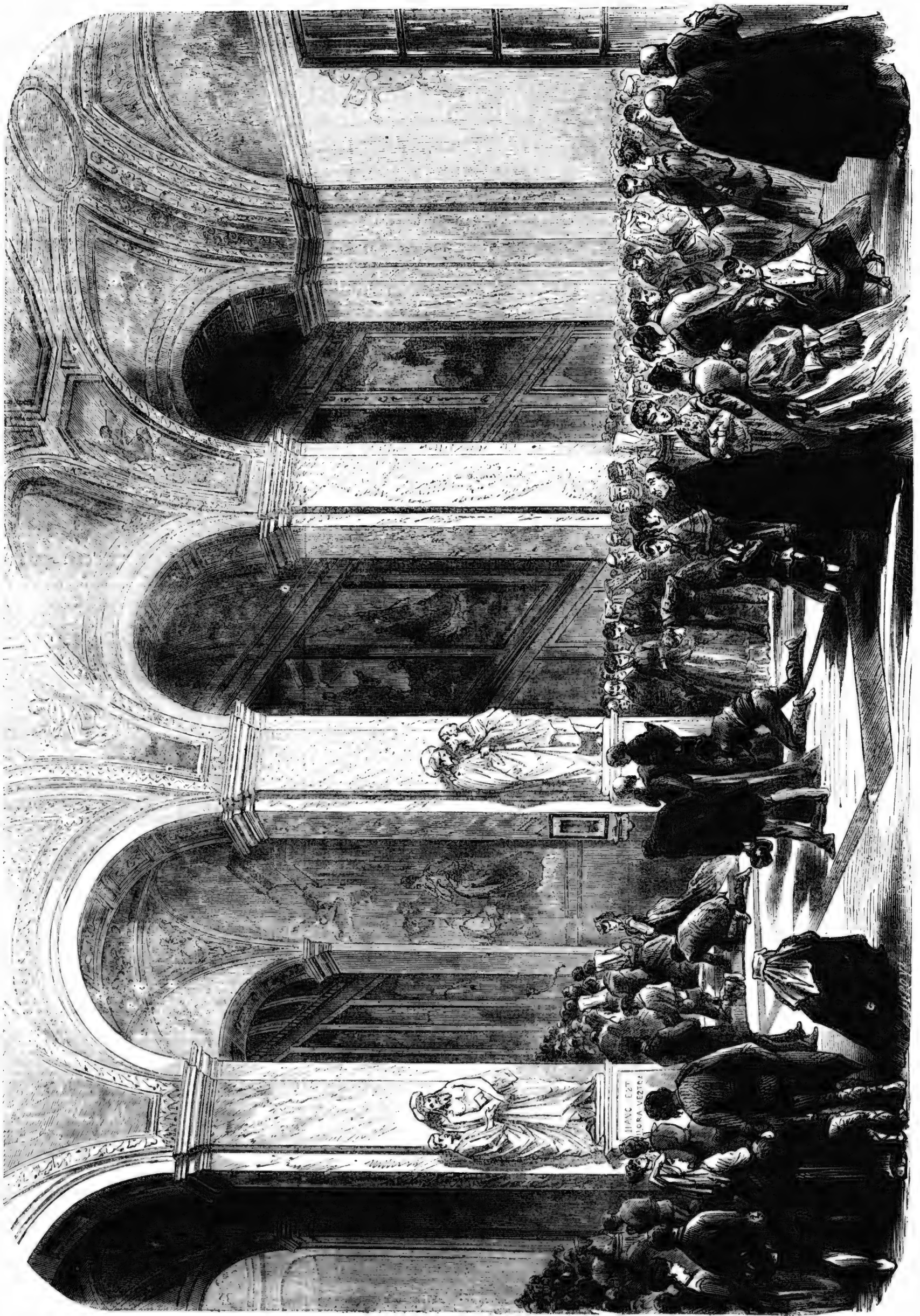
Biblical Studies. By E. H. PLUMPTRE, M.A., Professor of Divinity, King's College, London. *Saving Knowledge, Addressed to Young Men.* By THOMAS GUTHRIE, D.D., and W. G. BLAIR, D.D. London: Strahan and Co.

We are not often in the habit of reviewing books on purely religious topics in the columns of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, but the high character of both these volumes warrants an exception being made to our rule. The names of Mr. Plumptre and of Dr. Guthrie are in themselves sufficient warrant for the matter as well as the manner of whatever they publish; and Dr. Blair's reputation, if, perhaps, not quite so universal, is not less well established for excellence and purity of thought as well as depth of religious feeling. The papers in Mr. Plumptre's volume, which have already appeared in *Good Words* and the *Sunday Magazine*, while adapted for the reading of scholars, are also suited for perusal by all intelligent students of the Bible. Dr. Guthrie and Dr. Blair address themselves specially to imparting "Saving Knowledge" to young men, and we are sure they must succeed in this excellent task with both old and young.

MR. J. NORMAN LOCKYER ON "THE SUN."

MR. J. NORMAN LOCKYER, F.R.S., delivered his fourth and closing lecture, at the Royal Institution, last Saturday, on "The Sun." In the course of the lecture he observed that when the flame of a common candle is examined in the same way that the sun is observed with a spectroscope it is found that when the flame is in any way disturbed gases of different kinds are thrown out from its interior towards its exterior. In like manner, when from any cause disturbances are set up in the sun, there are storms or outbursts of luminous iron, magnesium, barium, and other vapours. It is evident, therefore, that there are layers underneath the external envelopes of the sun, portions of which layers become visible to us whenever there is the least disturbance. Spots being depressions in the external envelopes of the sun, it follows that an examination of the solar spots brings the astronomer nearer to the centre of the sun than does the observation of any other part of the orb. On examining the spots with a spectroscope, a general absorption of the rays of all parts of the solar spectrum is seen, as well as a selective absorption, the latter being especially noticeable in the sodium lines, and the greater the pressure of the sun's atmosphere the thicker are these absorption lines. In order to prove that increase of pressure without variation in temperature broadens the absorption lines, Mr. Lockyer threw upon the screen a continuous rainbow-like spectrum of the electric light, the dispersion being produced by means of two hollow glass prisms filled with bisulphide of carbon. Just outside the slit of the electric lantern the light was made to pass through a glass tube filled with attenuated hydrogen gas; the tube contained also a lump of metallic sodium. Heat was applied to the bottom of the tube, so as to gradually vapourise the sodium, and the vapour was at first, of course, densest near the bottom of the tube rather than at the top. The vapour intercepted none of the rays of the spectrum, except a portion of the yellow, consequently a dark band was cut in the yellow part of the spectrum upon the screen, but this band was thickest where the light had previously passed through the denser portions of the sodium vapour. The appearance of this tapering dark line consequently proved that where the pressure of the sodium was densest it broadened the dark line in the yellow of the spectrum. Thus, the broader the sodium-absorption lines produced by a sun spot, the greater is the pressure and quantity of the sodium atmosphere over that spot. There are now many large spots upon the solar disc; and it is a very curious fact that they give scarcely any absorption in the yellow part of a spectrum, showing thereby that the spots are not alike at all times. There are, in the ordinary solar spectrum, bright lines as well as dark ones, and he thought that these would be found to be the most unchangeable lines in it, for the dark ones are constantly varying. The yellow line, so often seen in the spectrum of the solar prominences, was once surmised to be a line belonging to hydrogen gas when the gas became luminous under certain very unusual conditions; but after many experiments with hydrogen, tried by Dr. Frankland and himself for more than a year, they were unable to make the luminous gas produce any such line. It was only on the previous Saturday that, while he (Mr. Lockyer) was examining the spectrum of a solar prominence, he saw the bright hydrogen lines of the prominence disappear almost entirely, while the yellow line retained its full luminosity and length. It would appear, therefore, to be certain that it is not a hydrogen line; neither is it a sodium line, for it does not fall at the right part of the yellow of the spectrum. Probably this perplexing line is due to some new substance common in the sun, but not yet known upon earth. A very valuable paper on solar physics once communicated to the Royal Society by Messrs. Balfour Stewart, De la Rue, and Loewe, set forth that the photosphere of the sun might be considered to be a plane of condensation, and any changes in the pressure of the plane of condensation will cause very considerable changes to take place in the spectra observed. For example, when the pressure of the plane of condensation of a common candle flame is reduced by the aid of the air-pump, a halo of blue light begins to spread outside the flame as the pressure is diminished, and at last the candle flame will give the spectrum of nearly pure carbon. The F line of hydrogen varies very much when the pressure is reduced; so this line is a very delicate indicator of the pressure of the atmosphere of the sun. Light is composed of waves varying in length, so that when a prominence bursts out upon the sun and in the direction of the eye of the observer, more waves are thrown into the eye in a second of time; if, on the other hand, the prominence be receding with a velocity at all comparable to that of light, the waves will be lengthened out, and a smaller number will enter the eye in a second. This variation in wave-length, caused by the rapid motion of solar flames, produces zigzag and irregular lines in the spectrum; and by measurement of the deflection of the bright lines from their normal position the velocity of motion of portions of the solar prominences may, within certain limits, be determined. The flames often rise or recede with a velocity of from fifty to one hundred miles per second, which, considering the size of the sun, is not a very excessive rate of motion. It seems as if the chromosphere is the outer limit of the sun, for very little absorption takes place outside it, and there is evidence that the absorbing atmosphere of the sun and the photosphere begin together. As to what is below the photosphere, spectrum analysis gives no information whatever, and he thought that in a sun-spot astronomers never get below the photosphere; he considered the spots to be purely surface phenomena. The photosphere may be gaseous, cloudy, or even liquid, but certainly is not solid. He did not know the origin of the continuous spectrum of the sun; a continuous spectrum may be thrown by dense luminous gases, as well as by white-hot solids; but it is consoling to be aware that it is equally unknown whether the continuous spectrum of a candle flame is due to solid, liquid, or gaseous matter. He would close his lecture with a few general remarks about the nature of the sun. The sun, after all, is nothing but the nearest star; it is also a variable star, for the spots upon it, as proved by observations extending over the last fifty years, are very plentiful at some periods, and very scarce at other periods; the interval between two maximum periods or two minimum periods is about eleven years. We are now in a maximum period. There is also some connection between the spots on the sun and the sun's family of planets, for the positions of the planets, more especially of Mercury and Venus, have an influence upon the area of the spots on the sun. The sun cannot be a ball of fire, for if it were it would burn itself out in a ridiculously short space of time; and there is reason to suppose that it is a hot globe now slowly cooling. If we accept the hypothesis of Laplace, that the sun was formed originally by the condensation of a tremendous nebula, it is not difficult to imagine that it is now slowly cooling; and, as it had an enormous initial temperature to start with, the cooling will go on through untold ages, until at last, having absorbed all its surrounding planets into its mass, it will in the end roll through space a cold, dark ball. Afterwards, perhaps, it may clash against another dark ball like itself, and the force of the blow may be proved by calculation to be sufficient to generate light and heat, a new sun, and other worlds.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—A letter has been received by Mr. C. Gonne, Secretary to the Government at Bombay, from Mr. John Kirk, her Majesty's Consul at Zanzibar, dated Feb. 6. In this letter it is stated that the cholera was still hanging over the island, having carried off five men from the British shipping within a week of the time of writing. Mr. Kirk incloses a translation of a letter received from the head man in charge of the goods to be sent by Dr. Livingstone's order to Ujiji, from which it appears that the cholera is again returning inland. Information had also reached Mr. Kirk that a large caravan, laden with ivory, and coming from Nanyangwe, had completely perished from the disease in Ujiji. He was about to send assistance to push on Dr. Livingstone's goods to Ujiji; but if the disease followed the inland route this would be extremely difficult. Intelligence had also been received from the Birza country and Cazeembe that the people of Usgara were dying of cholera, but that it had not reached Ujiji. At Quiva, 200 were said to be dying daily. Mr. Kirk concludes by expressing a hope that commanders of her Majesty's ships coming to the station will be made aware of the unhealthy state of the coast.



LA SCALA SANTA, IN THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN LATERAN, ROME, ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY IN MARCH: DEVOTEES ASCENDING THE STAIRCASE.



THE ST. EUGENIE INFANT NURSERY IN PARIS: FEEDING TIME.

SAINT EUGENIE'S CRADLE.

Those among our readers who have not yet paid a visit to either of the cradle-homes for infants which are now established in London may regard those institutions as peculiar to France. They are, however, among the valuable importations which we have adopted here with success; and in Leather-lane, Holborn, in connection with the Church of St. Alban; in the poor but charitable district of St. Andrew's, Holborn; and in Spitalfields, under the direction of the Rev. W. Tyler, whose efforts in establishing a refuge for destitute girls have had valuable results in the same depressed neighbourhood, cradle-homes for the reception of infants during the day while their mothers go out to work are among the most interesting labours of love in our metropolis.

It would be well if, in our sympathy with these efforts, we enabled their promoters to provide more efficient accommodation by securing suitable premises, such as those of the French establishment represented in our Engraving. As it is, the admirable infant schools and cradle-homes of St. Andrew's, Holborn, are about to be removed to take their share of a large building now being erected, wherein the various benevolent agencies of the parish will be conducted. But at present, in these institutions, the space for the tiny cribs and beds is too narrow for complete comfort; and though the morning bath, the ample breakfast, the regular meals of beef-tea, farina, cut-up meat and mashed potatoes, rice-puddings, bread-and-butter, or cooked fruit, and even the due administration of cod-liver oil and iron, are well attended to, and have their results in the increase of ruddy cheeks, smooth skins, and sturdy limbs, for the pale and sickly looks that too often denote the illness that comes of want of nourishment and the means of complete purification, we might

well interest ourselves in the endeavour to extend such means of doing good by helping those who cannot yet help themselves.

Anybody may become interested in this cause who will pay a visit to such an institution and stay to the grand meal-time of the day when in that little circular den the tiny dots sit down to dinner, some of them being so small that the presiding nurse has to take her place on a revolving stool in the centre, and, spoon in hand, feed them in succession as she gyrates in her most admirable orbit. Anybody may well feel a swelling of the heart, a springing of water to the eyes, who stands within that room where a whole company of little ones cluster about him and appeal with wistful glances to the compassion that can never be taken at a disadvantage in cherishing a baby. It would be well if we had a score of cradle-homes in London, like the Crèche of St. Eugénie, where the infants of poor working mothers are received for the day and cherished till they are claimed to solace the brief leisure of the happy women who can labour cheerfully in the knowledge that their babies are in good and loving hands. This particular crèche from which our illustrations are taken is the last which has been established in Paris, and is situated in the Rue de Crimée. It is, of course, partially supported by voluntary contributions, though we believe that, as in similar establishments in London, the poor mothers pay a trifle for the care taken of their children. The building stands in a quiet neighbourhood, in a courtyard planted with trees. A great room is devoted to the purpose of a dormitory, never unoccupied during the day by little sleepers. Three women, under the direction of the "sisters," carry out the work of nurses to the infants. The little dens or eating-galleries, already referred to, are movable, and are so arranged as to enable little ones to walk in a kind of alley between two supporting balustrades, thus avoiding the danger of a tumble; while

groups of babies may play with their toys within the area of the circle, without being able to crawl into danger. The children are provided gratuitously with comfortable garments, in which they are clad by the nurses, and are well taken care of from an early hour in the morning until the mothers come to claim them in the evening.

LA SCALA SANTA IN THE HOLY SEASON.

There are few places in Rome to which so much attention is directed during the holy season of the Catholic Church as the splendid group of buildings of the Lateran Palace and the church with which it is connected, named St. John de Lateran. These edifices are situated at the extremity of the Eternal City, on the road leading to Naples, and are called the Lateran after Plautinus Lateranus, who was martyred by Nero, and had a house here. In the midst of the Lateran square rises a tall obelisk, and on one side is built the palace which, after having been destroyed by fire, from the act of an incendiary, was rebuilt by the architect Fontana, during the pontificate of Sixtus V. Not far from this magnificent pile is the Church of St. John, adjoining which is the Scala Santa, or Sacred Staircase, up which it is believed Our Saviour went to the judgment-seat of Pilate. This staircase, which was removed from the house of Pilate at Jerusalem, and was placed here under the direction of Dominique Fontana, in 1589, is composed of thirty-three steps of black marble. Up these sacred stairs the Romish devotees, both natives and visitors in the Papal capital, proceed on their knees, reciting prayers as they make the penitential journey, an observance which is held on the last Wednesday in March. After having accomplished this religious feat, they arrive by one of four lateral staircases at



THE KITCHEN.



THE LAVATORY.

the Chapel of the Sancta Sanctorum, where various relics are offered for their veneration, and where an image of Christ is placed, before which they continue their devotions.

The meeting of the Oecumenical Council, and the large assembly of visitors at Rome, have made the scene at the Lateran more than usually striking this year, and seldom has the Santa Scala been so filled with pilgrims as it was on the last Wednesday of March, 1870.

MUSIC.

THREE works have been produced at the Royal Italian Opera since our last notice. On Thursday week the choice fell upon Rossini's masterpiece, "Guillaume Tell," the directors thinking most, perhaps, of showing Herr Wachtel in a part famous for the demands it makes upon stamina and high notes. So far, Herr Wachtel was all that could be desired. He shrank from none of the formidable passages, but rather seemed to play with them; and he held out bravely to the end. This was, no doubt, a remarkable feat—one quite as much deserving of applause as any other exhibition of pluck and endurance. Nevertheless, Herr Wachtel was by no means the Arnold we like. He sang and acted coarsely; appearing, in point of fact, to be regardless of everything but the power of his high notes. Mdlle. Vanzini was Mathilde; but the part overweighed her, and she made little impression. The other characters were sustained as on former occasions; and we need not dwell upon the Fell of Signor Graziani, the Edwidge of Mdlle. Scallchi, the Jemmy of Mdlle. Locatelli, and the Walter of Signor Baggiolo. Band, chorus, and mise-en-scène were also as usual. Last Saturday the opera was "Fidelio," Mdlle. Titiens, of course, appearing as the heroic wife. A representation so familiar needs no detailed account, and we shall only say that its usual success attended it. The other characters were cast in an unfamiliar manner. Mdlle. Madigan made her debut as Marcellina, and evinced the possession of a nice mezzo-soprano voice, the use of which she knows fairly well. There is, however, much for the young lady to learn, both musically and dramatically, before she can best display her natural advantages. Signor Capponi was a good representative of the gaoler, Rocco; as was Signor Marino of the gaoler's assistant, Jacquinio. M. Petit's Pizarro was meant to be forcible indeed—at least, so we interpret the grimaces and gesticulations in which the French artist indulged. His singing was marred by the *vibrato*, as usual; and for once the Revenge air passed without a hand of applause. Signor Caravoglia efficiently filled the small part of Il Ministro. The chorus sang out of tune in the prisoners' music. Signor Beviniani conducted, for the first time, not without a certain degree of success. On Tuesday "Lucrezia Borgia" was produced, with Mdlle. Titiens as the formidable Duchess. Here, again, we are spared the necessity of details, because the Duchess of Mdlle. Titiens is known to everybody—known, let us add, as a striking and artistic impersonation. A new singer appeared as Maffeo Orsini, in the person of Mdlle. Cari (Miss Carey), a young American lady who has obtained a reputation in various parts of the Continent. She has an excellent contralto voice, and sings with taste. Moreover, she seems at home on the stage, and conducts herself with much spirit. These are first impressions which subsequent experience may alter; but there is no doubt of Mdlle. Cari's debut being favourable. "Il Segreto" was encored. Signor Naudin made his rentrée as Gennaro, and sang the music in his usual style. What that is we need not say. The Duke was represented by Signor Graziani, who certainly did not cause us to forget Mr. Santley either by his acting or his singing, both of which were commonplace. The minor characters call for no remark.

Mr. Henry Leslie gave a capital concert of sacred music in St. James's Hall on Thursday week, the programme being chiefly made up of works in the performance of which his choir has gained renown. The reader will at once think of Schubert's 23rd Psalm, Wesley's "In exitu Israel," Mendelssohn's "Hear my prayer," and "Judge me, O God." All these were given in the usual unsurpassed style, and were heartily enjoyed by a crowded audience. Among the solo vocalists was Miss Edith Wynne, whose charming singing added not a little to the success of the concert.

Miss Agnes Zimmermann gave an excellent concert of classical chamber music in the Hanover-square Rooms on Thursday week; assisted by Madame Schumann, Signor Piatti, and Mr. Henry Holmes, with Mr. Cummings as vocalist. Though everything was good, there was nothing new in the programme. Mendelssohn's sonata in B flat (op. 45), capitolly rendered by Miss Zimmermann and Signor Piatti; Schubert's sonata in A minor, played by the concert-giver; and Beethoven's trio in B flat (op. 97) were among the things most thoroughly appreciated by a full house.

At the Crystal Palace, last Saturday, Mr. F. H. Cowen's symphony in C minor, lately played at St. James's Hall, was the chief object of attraction. Since its first performance, Mr. Cowen has materially altered portions of his work, and rewritten the finale. There can, now, be no doubt that the symphony is a production more than creditable to its young author. It makes him the object of many and high hopes, which we sincerely trust may be realised. Herr Reinecke played at this concert Beethoven's concerto in C minor (No. 1).

THE EX-QUEEN OF SPAIN AND HER HUSBAND.—Domestic differences have lately occurred between ex-Queen Isabella and her husband; and the Paris *Gazette* says that the differences have been settled, according to the Emperor Napoleon's suggestion, without recourse to the legal tribunals. Don Francis d'Assise demanded that the common fortune should be divided; but his demand was not granted by the arbitrators, and he has only obtained a pension of 200,000*fr.*, which is the amount settled upon him under the marriage contract. The children's portion is to be placed beyond reach of every kind of "accident." The share of the Prince of the Asturias appears to amount to 4,000,000*fr.* The separation of *corps et de biens* having been thus decreed, Don Francis has already taken bachelor's apartments in the Rue des Bourles d'Artois.

FATAL FIRE AT CARDIFF.—A shocking fire occurred at Cardiff, last Saturday, which resulted in the loss of four lives. At about two o'clock in the morning the Glamorgan Hotel in that town was found to be in flames, which had obtained a complete hold of the building before the discovery was made. The unfortunate inmates, Miss Stacey, the daughter of the landlord, aged thirty; two grandsons, aged three and five respectively; and Alfred Giler, aged thirty, the ostler, were all so soundly wrapped in slumber as not to be aroused until the flames were upon them and escape impossible. The four latter were burnt to a cinder, but Mr. Stacey is yet alive, although so fearfully burnt about the body that his recovery is almost impossible. A second lodger, Captain Manning, was aroused by Mr. Stacey, who told him the place was on fire, and how to escape by the back way, and then went to arouse the inmates, when he was himself stricken down by the flames. The building was completely gutted. The origin of the fire is unknown.

ROBBING THE POOR.—Incorrigible swindlers by weight are to be found in rural districts robbing their poorer customers with almost as much impunity as their brethren of Lambeth or St. Pancras. From a paragraph in a contemporary it appears that some Oxfordshire bakers have been cheating the union outdoor poor in the loaves granted for their sustenance by the guardians. The chief constable has reminded the magistrates in quarter sessions at Oxford of former misdeeds of those rascally purveyors to the poor. "At the Trinity Sessions, 1868, I reported (he observes) to this court that paupers in receipt of outdoor relief had received loaves of short weight from certain bakers who contracted to supply them—viz., in 334 loaves then tested by the police there was found to be a deficiency of 1058½ ounces—that is to say, short by weight of 66 lb. 2½ oz." This was two years ago. The results of this officer's recent investigations were these:—

	Unions.	lb. oz.
Banbury	269 loaves short by weight	8 2
Chipping Norton	227 "	25 13½
Bradfield	26 "	2 11
Witney	26 "	2 12½

Here, then, in 528 loaves a deficiency of 38 lb. 13½ oz. has been detected by the police. But who can surmise the swindling in weight of which the inspectors do not find out the aggregate sum? The chief constable asks for more stringent measures against these depredators. Would this reveal of the pillory be too stringent?—*Full Merit Gazette.*

ALARMING EARTHQUAKES.

A HILL SWALLOWED IN SOUTH AMERICA.

A Panama despatch says much damage has been done in the vicinity of Quito, in the province of Imbabura, and in many other places, by earthquakes. On Dec. 2 several shocks were felt, and on the 12th continued shocks were felt from noon till morning of next day, when a shock of extraordinary violence occurred. "The inhabitants," says the *Panama Mail*, "were terrified, and rushed from their dwellings, fell on their knees, and implored mercy. During the latter part of the day thirteen distinct shocks were felt in Jipijapa, each one being accompanied by a violent wind storm. On Dec. 13 another terrific shock was experienced. Several times since many shocks have taken place; but none created alarm until March 2, when there was one of unusual severity at about mid-day; but the most terrifying one of all took place on the 3rd, when, between Pedernals and Cabo Pasado, the earth was seen to open and emit a hillock of stones from 30 ft. to 40 ft. high. Behind or near the spot where this occurred stood an earth hill about 60 ft. high, which suddenly and entirely disappeared. Around the base of the hillock is a circular pond of salt water, and for a long distance surrounding that the earth, which before was hard and solid, has become soft and spongy. The inhabitants of the locality have become positively terror-stricken, and no inducement will take them within a very long distance of the spot.

CALAMITY IN NEW BRUNSWICK.

The St. John (New Brunswick) *Telegraph* of March 18 describes an extraordinary phenomenon which occurred in the harbour of that city on the previous day. Early in the morning, just before the commencement of a snowstorm, while the wind was rising so as to be heard within doors, it tells us that a strange noise, similar to that accompanying the earthquake on Oct. 22 last, was heard by the residents near the harbour. The storms of the autumn and winter, it seems, have done very great damage, carrying away the breakwater in one part, throwing down buildings from their foundations, and washing away land. This strange noise, therefore, caused much consternation and roused many from their beds. They found a startling change in the appearance of the land and wharfs. The tide was nearly down, and though it was quite dark it could be seen that the old ferry, which should be several feet above water, had vanished. Messrs. Littlehale and Coram's wharf had nearly disappeared. It had been piled with deals, and that part of the wharf on which the deals were did not break down as though the bottom on which it rested had been washed out, as at first supposed, but a piece about 20 ft. by 70 ft. broke off and settled down squarely into the water, and the whole mass, with the top of the wharf beneath, and the deals remaining upon it, floated away into the harbour, where it was picked up yesterday by Mr. James Stackhouse and his men. A frontage several hundred feet in extent, running from the line of the demolished wharf towards the breakwater, has gone down, leaving a steep embankment, and less than 100 ft. from it, into the harbour, in the place where the old ferry landing was. On this spot soundings were made last night, and where the old ballast or reefer was the day before, rising above the water 8 ft., were found six fathoms of water, showing that even so near the shore as that the bottom had settled just 32 ft. Near where the portion of the wharf settled away, or where a moderately sized vessel used to ground at low water, there is now between six and seven fathoms at low tide. One of Messrs. Adams's buoys, moored about 400 ft. or 500 ft. from the shore, had disappeared; and last evening, when the tide was at its lowest level, the current was just showing a ripple over the top of it. As the tides rise and fall about 30 ft. in St. John's harbour, and the chain of this buoy had several fathoms of scope, it may be inferred that the bottom sank as much as nine or ten fathoms at this point." So far as could be ascertained, the *Telegraph* adds, this subsidence occurred over an area of about three acres in extent.

THE GREAT "WHEAT-CLIPPER" RACE FROM CALIFORNIA.—The race between the West Coast clippers, now on the voyage home from San Francisco to Liverpool, with the first cargoes of new Californian wheat, promises to be as exciting this year as any of the China tea-clipper races, which are now dying out so far as the arrival of the first season's tea in sailing-ships is concerned, owing to the introduction of steamers into the trade. The first ship to leave San Francisco was the *Baringa*, on March 2; the *River Mersey*, on the 5th; the *Kenilworth*, on the 9th; the *Yosemite* and *Ceresotes*, on the 11th; and the *Galatea*, on the 16th. As this is the first race of the kind which has taken place from San Francisco to the Mersey, a good deal of interest is attached to it; as, unlike the China races, the voyage round the Horn is beset with obstacles, such as ice and contrary baffling winds, until the trades are met with.

COLUMBIA FISH MARKET.—On Monday afternoon several members of the House of Commons interested in opening out fresh wholesale markets in the metropolis and elsewhere for the sale by auction of large consignments of fish from Ireland visited this market by appointment. Amongst those present were Lord Edmund G. P. Fitzmaurice, Mr. McCarthy Downing, Mr. E. de La Poer, Mr. J. Talbot Power, Mr. W. Shaw, Mr. Philip Callan, Mr. W. Stapcoole, &c. Marquis Hamilton and Lord George F. Hamilton were unavoidably detained at Westminster on urgent Parliamentary business. Three of the four Irish Commissioners of Fisheries, Mr. T. F. Brady, Mr. G. W. Hart, and Mr. J. A. Blake, ex-M.P., accompanied the party, as also did the chairman and secretary of the Kinsale Railway. After carefully inspecting the whole premises, conferring with the salesmen, and settling details of business, the party were entertained at luncheon in the committee-room tower by Mr. J. Hassard, for Miss Burdett Coutts. Mr. Sapsford, the manager at the market, was also present. It was unanimously agreed by the visitors to support the Kinsale Railway Company in their intended application to the London and North-Western Railway and the Great Southern and Western Railway of Ireland to arrange for a cheap and thorough rate of freightage for boxes and packages of fish from the south coast of Ireland into "Columbia." The take of fish round Ireland this spring is very large indeed.

MR. NEWDEGATE'S CONVENTUAL INQUIRY.—A great meeting of Roman Catholics was held, on the 8th inst., at the Stafford Club, to organise a resistance to the proposed inquiry into Roman Catholic charities and monastic institutions. The Duke of Norfolk was in the chair; and the Earl of Denbigh, Lord Arundell, Sir J. Simeon, Sir Charles Clifford, and other well-known Roman Catholic noblemen and gentlemen were present. A good many priests were present also. The following were the principal resolutions adopted:—"That while we know however truth, elicited by an honest and fair inquiry, can only result in the increased honour and justification of the members of the Catholic, monastic, and conventual institutions, we once more indignantly protest against the wanton outrage and insult to them, to their relatives, and to all Catholics, implied by the proposed committee of inquiry, by which practical malignity, morbid curiosity, and reckless calumny are, for the first time in the history of this country, publicly recognised as sufficient grounds for the persecution of private individuals."—"That the intended inquiry, involving, as it does, intrusion upon domestic privacy, interference with the affairs of private families, exceptional meddling with the property of individuals, and requiring persons, on vague and undefined suspicion, to furnish evidence against themselves in order to bring them within the scope of a nearly extinct penal code, treating the innocent and unconvicted as if already proved guilty, putting them upon their trial to answer charges and imputations which will not be even guaranteed by the oaths of their accusers (a security provided for the meaneast malefactor), and otherwise violating the best established and most cherished rights and liberties of Englishmen, is no only a revival of the remains of nearly expired penal laws, but constitutes the creation of a new one." The feeling of the speakers seemed to be that, supposing an inquiry to be inevitable, it ought to be rather made by a Royal Commission than by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. The Earl of Denbigh said he could not conceal his anxiety at the state of things now existing in this country. It appeared to him that if they failed in obtaining a statutory commission the Catholics were on the brink of a social persecution such as they had not had in their time before, and one of which they were not able to foresee the end. Every possible slander which the malignity of their enemies might choose to devise would be brought against them without the protection of an oath. Every unfortunate nun whom they chose to bring up might be compelled to answer questions put to her by the Committee, and they could scarcely imagine the indignation which every Catholic would feel at such a proceeding. Active steps are being taken by the Roman Catholic clergy and laity of the metropolis to convene an aggregate meeting of their co-religionists, to be held the week after Easter in St. James's Hall, to protest against the inspection of conventual and monastic institutions. Preliminary meetings have already been held in various parts of the metropolis. The Duke of Norfolk will, it is said, be asked to preside, and it is expected that Cardinal Cullen, who leaves Rome this week for Ireland, will be in London the day of the meeting, and attend it.

PAUPERISM AND SELF-HELP.

On Monday night, at a meeting of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science—Mr. G. W. Hastings in the chair—Mr. C. Lamport read a paper upon "Pauperism and Self-Help." After giving a historical sketch of the pauperism of the country from a remote period down to the present time, Mr. Lamport submitted the synopsis of a scheme to establish a national friendly society in connection with and by means of the existing poor-law system. The primary object of the society would be to diminish pauperism by instituting a counterpoise in self-help. The secondary objects would be to raise the working man's self-respect, to render the efforts of the poor to become independent more sustained and efficient; to remove the public distaste for a system of relief identified with poor laws, parishes, paupers, and poor-houses; and to promote sympathy and moral support for a national provision for sickness and unavoidable want. Mr. Lamport proposed to divide recipients of relief into four distinct classes—viz., Class A, composed of persons verging towards criminality, including able-bodied mendicants and vagrants. The source of relief for this class should be a subsistence rate, now levied as a poor rate; the relief ordered by police magistrates and administered under police supervision; and a bare subsistence should be given in return for a certain amount of labour under police or private arrangements. Class B, composed of persons verging towards pauperism, including able-bodied but unsteady workmen, labourers not in regular employment, reduced tradesmen and clerks, and persons unwilling or unable to join the "National Friendly Society," and widows of the above. For this class the source of relief should be also a subsistence rate, the relief to be ordered by boards of guardians as now formed, and to consist only of indoor relief in return for labour. Class C, composed of persons desirous to be provided and independent; the recipients to be voluntary subscribers to the "National Friendly Society," composed of artisans, clerks, labourers, small tradesmen, and their widows. For this class the source of relief should be friendly society allowance for sickness, non-employment (temporary), migration expenses, superannuation, and burial. The relief to be ordered by a friendly society board, consisting of guardians ex officio and members elected by the subscribers; and the condition and mode of relief should be periodical payments at members' houses of the society's offices. Class D, comprising persons unable to work, including the aged and infirm, cripples, incurables, lunatics and idiots, and orphans. The source of relief for this class should be a subsistence rate as now levied in aid of charitable endowments and private subscriptions, the relief to be ordered by a board of guardians and members appointed by subscribers, and the condition and mode of relief should be admission to refuges, asylums, school establishments, and reformatories. An interesting discussion followed the reading of the paper, and in it great doubts were expressed as to the feasibility of the plan. Mr. F. Hill said if pauperism were to be diminished a chance ought to be given to English workmen to compete with foreign workmen. Mr. Alsager Hay-Hill said one great objection to the plan was that, being affiliated to the poor-law system, the prejudice of the people against that system would be applied to the plan proposed. Self-help, he thought, could best be promoted through the agency of the Post Office savings banks. Mr. Collins, a guardian of St. Pancras, believed the administration of the poor law was its bane. Dr. Stallard contended that power should be given to boards of guardians to bring before the magistrates habitual paupers—indeed, to have an adult reformatory in which to place them. The Government should be asked to extend the Post-Office savings-bank system, so that a man could go to a savings bank and buy a ticket which would give him an allowance of 3s. a week in the event of his being out of work. The proceedings were brought to a close by votes of thanks to Mr. Lamport and the chairman.

THE ST. PANCRAS GUARDIANS.—The annual election of guardians for the parish of St. Pancras took place last week, the result being that out of the eighteen candidates brought forward by the Ratepayers' Association in opposition to the old (or Rates Reduction) guardians twelve were returned. Dr. Edmunds is one of the rejected candidates; and Mr. Watkins, whose name has also been very prominent in the reports of the proceedings of the guardians during the past year, polled about 200 votes less than last year. Upwards of 32,500 votes were recorded. The last meeting of the board elected in 1869 took place on Monday, and the closing scene was marked by much violence of language and animation of gesture. Dr. Edmunds proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman; but this was opposed by a section of the guardians, who wished to talk out the motion by prolonging the discussion to five o'clock. This, however, the vice chairman would not permit, for, amid a scene of great confusion, the resolution was put and declared to have been carried. The obstructionists then elected a chairman, continued the debate until the clock struck, and declared the motion to have dropped through lapse of time.

THE EASTER MONDAY VOLUNTEER REVIEW.—Of the 26,000 volunteers who will attend the review at Brighton on Monday next Middlesex will, as usual, contribute the largest proportion—nearly 11,000 men. The city of London, 2500; the Tower Hamlets, 2300; and the other counties in the metropolitan district as follows:—Surrey, 3101; Kent, 1000; and Essex, 1500. Altogether fourteen counties will be represented. Sussex sends 700 men, the Cinque Ports nearly 800, Hampshire 2136, Lancashire 175, Cambridge 334, Oxfordshire 36, Hertfordshire nearly 600, the Isle of Wight 400, and York-hire 156. There will be nearly 4000 artillerymen and 800 engineers at the review, which, deducted from the total number of 26,000 men for whom the Secretary of State for War has granted permission to attend the review, will leave the infantry force at about 21,000—a slight falling off as compared with the attendance at Dover last year. At Brighton the arrangements for the reception of the troops are complete, and all the land required for the review has been granted. The town corporation have placed the Market-Hall and the dome of the Pavilion at the disposal of the volunteers for the supply of cheap breakfasts to the troops as they arrive; and arrangements are being made for the hire of school-rooms and other available rooms in which the men can assemble and take refreshment before marching on to the Downs.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.—A meeting was held at St. James's Hall, on the 8th inst., in favour of what the promoters call liberty of teaching. The opponents of the secular system—Roman Catholics, High Churchmen, Evangelicals, and Liberals—mustered in great force, but it does not appear from the reports that any Dissenters or Wesleyans were present. Lord Shaftesbury was in the chair; and the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Salisbury, Mr. Beresford Hope, and a number of Conservative Members of Parliament were present. Mr. Charles Buxton and Mr. Thomas Hughes were also present, and made speeches. The principal resolution set forth the opinion of the meeting "that any system of national elementary education which excludes religious teaching from schools, or discourages it, is wholly unsatisfactory and unworthy of national support." A petition in favour of Mr. Forster's bill was adopted. Lord Shaftesbury said that what they had to secure was that the teaching of the Bible should be an "essential," and not an "extra." Mr. Hughes told the meeting that he was a member of the League, and that the League did not object to religious instruction; it was only a minority of its members who did so. The Marquis of Salisbury, referring to the presence of distinguished Roman Catholics on the platform, said they might depend upon it, the foundations of their common faith were not lightly threatened when men differing so widely could meet together as they had done. There was no difference so wide between Christians as that which separated Christians and those who propose that no Christianity should be taught in schools.—A conference was held on Saturday, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, between a number of Liberal members of Parliament and about a hundred school-teachers belonging to the British Church, and Wesleyan schools in London. Mr. Samuel Morley presided. The "religious difficulty" in the education question was fully discussed, and on two points the teachers were nearly, if not quite, unanimous—that the present system of Bible teaching in the metropolitan schools had not prevented parents from sending their children to school, and that a time-table for religious instruction ought not to be adopted. It was also very generally agreed that it was practicable to work a conscience clause in such a way that the period for religious instruction should be so known and regulated that any child might be put to other lessons while that was going on, if its parents desired.—There was presented to Mr. Gladstone, on Monday, a protest against three points in the Government Education Bill—viz., the power given to local boards to establish denominational teaching in rate-supported schools; the "conscience clause," which requires a Nonconformist British citizen to claim religious toleration in schools supported by national money; and the permissive arrangement for religious instruction. The protest received 5000 signatures, and was presented by the Rev. J. G. Rogers, representing the Congregational Union; the Rev. Dr. Brock, President of the Baptist Union; Dr. Macfarlane, Presbyterian; Dr. Gaskell, Unitarian; the Rev. J. G. Hargreaves, Wesleyan; the Rev. G. Lamb, Primitive Methodist; Dr. Cooke, President of the Methodist New Connexion; and the Rev. J. Swan Withington, of the United Methodist Free Church.

POLICE.

THE SITUATION DEPOSIT DODGE AGAIN.—At the Thames Police Court, on Monday, William Thomas Belcher, aged forty-one, who was described as a brewer, of 69, Martha-street, St. Giles-in-the-East; and Stephen Noakes, fifty-two, of No. 4, Love-lane, Shadwell, wine-cooper and beer-merchant, were charged, on remand, with conspiring to obtain £5, under false pretences, from Henry Death, of Riley-street, Bermondsey, servant; £2 from George Brooks, of No. 31, Appian-road, Old Ford, Bow; £10 from another person, and other sums. It appeared that the prisoner Belcher rented some premises at No. 194, Back Church-lane, Whitechapel, which he designated the "Ale and Beer Stores." He had been in the practice of advertising in the *Clerkenwell News* for young men, and demanding £25 as security for their honesty on the ground that they would have money to collect. The wages he agreed to give Death and Brooks were 25s. per week; but the former could only raise £5 and the other £2, which he accepted. Agreements were drawn up, and the prosecutors entered into the prisoner's service. There was one barrel of ale only in the stores, no bottles, and no appearance of bottling anything, and after Death had been kept idle for some time Belcher gave him 5s. and discharged him. Brooks, on reading a similar advertisement, waited on Belcher and offered him personal security, which was declined. Brooks then raised £2, which he gave to Belcher, and entered into his service. Brooks soon found that his new master was without any business whatever, and told him so. Belcher then coolly said, "No, I have no business, it is true; but I shall have when I can get some money and a few sums of £25." Brooks was in the stores a week. He was paid 5s. and then discharged. Noakes acted as foreman to Belcher, and assisted him in taking in the young men who were to be engaged as collectors; and Death paid 2s. 6d. as a deposit into the hands of Noakes. Dunaway, a detective police-sergeant of the H division, took the prisoners into custody and told them the charges against them. Belcher said he intended to employ the young men as collectors and managers of his ale-stores. Dunaway said, "You have no business." Belcher replied that he should have. He only wanted a £25 or two to erect a booth at Epsom Races, where he had been in the habit of trading for many years. The defence of Belcher was that he took the young men into his employ, expecting that they would find the money he required of them to enable him to commence business and begin bottling. He had tried to raise a loan of £25 and failed. He was a traveller for two ale and beer merchants, and was in possession of orders for 500 dozen bottles of ale and beer. Death had made a civil debt of the matter, and sued him in the county court, running up the debt and costs to £5 15s., and there was a judgment summons against him. Mr. Lushington examined the documents relating to the suit in the county court, and returned them to the prisoner. Noakes, in defence, said he really was foreman to Belcher, and the deposit he received of Death he paid to his master. Mr. Lushington committed the prisoners for trial at the next sessions of the Central Criminal Court, and refused bail. Dunaway said he had another charge against Belcher for obtaining £10 of a man under pretence of putting him into a beer-shop in Paddington. The beer-shop did not exist. Mr. Lushington said there was no occasion to go into any more cases. The persons who had been defrauded could, if necessary, indict the prisoners at the sessions.

THE GAS COMPANIES AND THE PUBLIC.—At Southwark, on Monday, Mr. Isaac A. Crookenden, the secretary of the Phoenix Gas Company, Bank-side, was summoned before Mr. Benson, by Mr. Henry Panter, a baker, carrying on business at 36, Blackfriars-road, to show cause why he refused to supply him with gas, (the Mr. Panter having offered £5 as deposit. Mr. W. Edwin appeared for the company. The complainant said he was the leaseholder of No. 46 and other houses in the Blackfriars-road, and having taken possession of the former, and fitted it up as a baker's, he was anxious to be supplied with gas, as heretofore, so that he might open the shop on Saturday evening. He accordingly waited on the defendant on Friday, and requested to have the supply put on. Mr. Crookenden refused to do so unless he paid £16 arrears due by the previous tenant. Considering that demand to be unjust and without reason, he refused, but offered to pay him £5 as a deposit. That was declined, and, as he required the gas immediately, he took the present proceedings for his Worship to adjudicate between them. Mr. Edwin observed that the two winter quarters' gas was consumed, amounting to near £16, therefore £5 deposit was not sufficient. That, however, was not the obstacle. The complainant was responsible for the gas burnt by the former tenant, who absconded without paying anybody. Six months ago Mr. Panter left the shop, and never gave notice to the company of any change. Mr. Benson was of opinion that the company was wrong, and that they ought to supply complainant with gas on the security offered. He wanted to commence business, and the company must not leave him with a lucifer match and a candle. He accordingly made an order forthwith for the company to supply him with gas on the payment of £5 security. He, however, perceived that the Act of Parliament stated "that fourteen days' notice was required by the company." He advised them to let him have the gas and try the question of arrears in the county court.

HOW THE POOR ARE POISONED.—Mr. T. Lloyd, 9, Market-place, Kilburn, was charged, at Marylebone Police Court, with having on his premises veal, mutton, and pork intended for sale, but unfit for human food. Mr. Edward Judd, sanitary inspector for the parish of Willesden, went to the defendant's shop on March 30, and, on entering a room at the back, found a small steam-engine at work driving a sausage-machine. In a room below were two large salting-tanks. The first contained a lot of bones and meat; the second were halves and quarters of pork and half the carcass of a calf in brine. The defendant told the witness he had used the other portion of the calf, and that, except a little matter in the

capable of holding 130lb., the inspector took up a piece of meat and asked the defendant if he had used much lately. He replied, "Not much of that sort," the meat being so putrid that the inspector dropped it back into the tub, in which were other pieces quite putrid, but covered with dry salt. Mr. F. G. Mullar, district medical officer of health, saw the meat complained of, and declared it was quite unfit for human food. The veal was in a shocking condition, and was the flesh of a calf which had not been born alive. Mr. Mansfield ordered the defendant to pay a fine of £10 and £3 15s. for costs.

"POOR RICHARD."—Frederick Hacker, a strange-looking man, better known as "Richard the Third," and who for years past has been in the habit of earning a precarious livelihood by reciting in the streets portions of Shakespeare's plays, was brought before Mr. Knox, at Marlborough-street, charged with begging. Joseph Worraker, Mendicity Society officer, was in Chapel-street, Oxford-street, on Friday week, and saw the prisoner with a large, if not very disorientating, audience round him, brandishing a wooden sword and reciting pieces from Shakespeare, and then going about with his hat and collecting money. The prisoner said he had done the same thing for years. Worraker said he believed the prisoner made a good living at it. The prisoner (holding forth his hand with a few halfpence in it) asked the officer if he thought that a good living for an actor. In answer to a question, the prisoner said he had no other means of getting a living. The officer said the prisoner was in the habit of rushing about in the most excited manner, waving his sword, and that women were frightened of him. Mr. Knox said the prisoner might recite Shakespeare as much as he liked, as long as he went in out-of-the-way places, and did not offend. If the prisoner would promise to keep out of the district for a month he would discharge him. The promise having been given, the prisoner was discharged.

SELLING PHEASANTS OUT OF SEASON.—At the Mansion House, last Saturday, Mr. Charles Newcomb Baker, of Halfmoon-passage, Gracechurch-street, described as a licensed dealer in game, appeared before the Lord Mayor, on a summons charging him in effect with having infringed a provision of the Act 1 and 2 William IV., c. 32, commonly called the Game Act, in having a pheasant unlawfully in his shop on March 3, being after the expiration of ten days (one inclusive and the other exclusive) from Feb. 1 last. Mr. Wontner, solicitor, conducted the prosecution. He said, in opening it, the penalty which the Bench could inflict upon the defendant, in the event of a conviction, though small, might tend to repress a system most demoralising to the agricultural labouring class, which was practised by persons in the occupation of defendant, who, on his card, described himself as "purveyor of live birds, &c., by special appointment, to her Majesty the Queen, at Halfmoon-passage, Gracechurch-street; at the Royal Pheasantry, 152, King's-road, Chelsea; and at Beaufort-street, Chelsea." William Hollis, one of the Lincolnshire constabulary, whom Mr. Wontner called as a witness, said he knew a man named George Last. He arrested him on March 2 last, at Grantham, for poaching, and was present afterwards at Horncastle, when he was convicted and sentenced to two months' hard labour on each of two charges of that kind. In consequence of information witness had received, he came to London on March 3 by a train which he had reason to know conveyed a live pheasant in a basket directed to the present defendant at his shop in Halfmoon-passage, and upon which were written the words, "A live bird." Witness delivered the basket himself, which was received by G. Mays, the defendant's manager, who signed a receipt for it in the name of the defendant. Witness asked the manager to see that it was all right, as it contained a live bird. The manager undid the basket, and having taken out the bird, said, "It is a hen—a beauty," and then put it in again. Witness went to the defendant's shop again about seven o'clock the same evening, and asked to see the defendant, but did not find him in. He inquired if they had any pigeons. The reply was in the negative, upon which, at his request, he was shown round the shop. He saw another basket directed to the defendant, and asked what it contained. The reply was, "A pheasant." He turned the cover back, and saw in the basket a white pheasant. He asked what it was worth. The manager (Mays) answered about £3 to them at this time of year. Witness then left. The pheasant was a brown, wild hen. The defendant, being asked by the Lord Mayor what he had to say in answer to the charge, replied that the first pheasant to which the witness had referred was not a pheasant of this country, but a Bohemian, and was only in his shop during its transit to a gentleman living on the South-Eastern Railway, whose name he would not mention. He had been upwards of forty years in the trade, was known to many noblemen and gentlemen, and was the last man in the world to do an unjust act. The pheasant in question was never sold by him, or offered for sale. He was expecting the receipt of five Japan pheasants that day by vessel. He stood on his right to have a foreign pheasant in his shop. He had a farm where he was trying to naturalise Bohemian birds. It was impossible for him to say where that particular bird came from. Who would send him one pheasant, except as a trap? Besides, he had always understood a foreign bird while in transit did not come within the law. Garnham Mays, the defendant's manager, who was called for the defence, said he recollected the brown pheasant coming from Grantham from a person named Last. The same evening the policeman Hollis called and asked to be allowed to look round the shop. The brown pheasant had come from Luton by rail that day, and witness sent it next morning to a gentleman by the South-Eastern Railway. It was a tame-bred pheasant, and the defendant had never seen it. Being cross examined, witness said he paid 8s. to Last for the pheasant. He had received game from Last two or three times during the last two months. The white bird came from Mr. Leno, of Markgate-street, near Dunstable, who was a breeder. The Lord Mayor told the defendant he was doing incalculable mischief by such a trade. He might seek to screen himself on the ground of being a breeder in a more or at his

place at Chelsea; but that could not avail him in respect to Lendenhall Market. He had no hesitation in inflicting the full penalty—namely, £1 each in respect of the two birds, which he believed to be English bred, with the costs, amounting to £2 9s. 6d. The defendant, he added, had done wrong, and he must suffer for it. The money was paid, the defendant at the same time angrily protesting against the proceedings.

PAWNBROKING LAW.—Alfred John Bell, pawnbroker, 163, Brompton-road, was summoned before Mr. Vaughan, at Bow-street, on Tuesday, charged with refusing to deliver up certain goods which had been pledged with him, but which had previously been obtained by false pretences. Mr. Straight, barrister, appeared for the defendant. M. Ferdinand Benoit, a dealer in curiosities in Paris, deposited that a clock and a candelabra, value together £160, had been obtained from him by a person signing himself the Count de Feugoret, of Thurlow-street, London, who subsequently turned out to be no other than the man De Cissy, who was recently committed from the Old Bailey to five years' penal servitude for fraud. The property had been deposited with Mr. Bell, the defendant, for £70, and the object of the present summons was to obtain the delivery of the articles. Mr. Straight, on behalf of the defendant, urged that M. Benoit had parted with his property too hastily and without sufficient inquiry. With reference to the defendant, he had been deceived by De Cissy's plausible appearance and the fact that they had had several transactions together before this one. The consequence was that the pawnbroker did not for a moment suspect the real character of De Cissy. Mr. Vaughan certainly had the power of ordering the defendant to restore the goods, but, at the same time, he could direct that the loss should not entirely fall upon the pawnbroker if it were believed that a proper amount of vigilance had been exercised by him. Mr. Vaughan decided that the loss should be equally shared. The defendant must deliver up the property on payment of £35, that being half the sum he had advanced upon it.

DARING STREET ROBBERY.—Catherine Brady, twenty-one, described as a hawker, was brought before Mr. Partridge at Southwark, on Tuesday, charged with assaulting Jesse Thorpe, a dress-maker, in Mint-street, Borough, and stealing from her a wedding dress, the property of Maria Smith; and William Allsop, twenty-one, and James Hunter, sixteen, were charged with attempting to rescue her from the custody of the police. Mr. W. Moore, the prosecuting officer of the Associate Institute for Enforcing the Laws for the Protection of Women, prosecuted. The prosecutrix said she was a dressmaker, and resided at 99, Mint-street. Last Saturday evening she received a dress to make for a young woman, named Maria Smith, who was to be married the following Tuesday morning. She did not complete it until near one o'clock in the morning, and was taking it home, and when she got to the corner of Red-cross-street she saw the prisoner and several others standing there. The prisoner followed her, and suddenly caught her by the back of the neck and pulled her backwards, when she seized hold of the wedding-dress and tried to get it from her. They had a struggle together for some time, and none of the others interfered to protect her. The prisoner, being a powerful woman, threw her violently on the ground, and then she got the dress and ran away with it. Witness screamed as loud as she could, and ran after her, calling out "Stop thief!" when a young woman followed her and gave her into custody. Mary Ann Garvey, the wife of a labourer, residing at 49, Mint-street, said that the dress was intended for her sister, who was to have been married that morning. About one o'clock witness heard the complainant screaming in the street; and, on running out, saw her lying on her back, and the prisoner running from her, with the dress in her hand. Witness followed her into a house, and said to her, "I did not think you would have done such a thing." She replied, "I have not got it. A man in the passage has it." Witness called in a constable and gave her into custody, when a mob followed them. Hunter was among them, and had a knife in his hand, and tried to trip her up. Allsop struck her several times and knocked her down. The prisoners were committed to the Central Criminal Court for trial.

BUTCHERS AND THEIR PRICES.—On Friday week, at the Sheffield Townhall, a calf-dealer, named James Harrison, of Ashford-on-the-Water, Derbyshire, was charged with having in his possession carcasses of sheep unfit for human food. The charge was proved, and the defendant was fined 10s. for each case. In the course of the evidence, Mr. Joshua Fawley, a wholesale butcher, said that mutton cost 7s. 6d. or 8s. per stone (14lb.), but he could supply it at 5s. 2d., the price being simply a question of competition. The solicitor for the defence asked the witness if it was a fact that good mutton, which was sold at 7s. 6d. per stone, could be sold at 5s. 2d. Witness: Yes; the very same mutton we sell in my shop at 7s. 6d. I supply the Sheffield workhouse with at 5s. 2d. I have had the supply of all the troops for the whole county of York. It was remarked in court that there must be "a glorious profit somewhere."

SHOCKING DEATH OF A CHILD.—On Tuesday Mr. William Carter, the Surrey Coroner, held an inquest at the Duke of Suffolk, Brandon-street, Walworth, respecting the death of Eliza Matthews, aged seven years. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was the daughter of a printer residing at 3, Sarah Ann-street, Walworth. On Thursday morning week the mother was proceeding down Newtonington-causeway to the City, having the child with her. In crossing Union-road the deceased fell under the wheel of a cart, which passed over her body and the back of her head. She was picked up bleeding from both ears, and carried to the surgery of Dr. Donohoe, who pronounced life to be extinct. The medical evidence showed that the skull of the deceased was shockingly fractured, and that death must have been instantaneous. The driver of the cart was taken into custody by the police, and, as there appeared to be no blame attached to him, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

ALARMING ACCIDENT TO A MAIL-TRAIN.—The mail-train from the north to London met with a very serious accident on Sunday morning, at Greyrig bank, six miles north of Oxenholme. At about half-past one, while travelling at the rate of nearly fifty miles an hour, all the carriages suddenly left the rails, plunging up the ground and creating the most alarming confusion. Some of the carriages were almost smashed to pieces, others were broken at the buffers and foot-boards, and all of them were more or less damaged. The engine and a guard's van immediately behind it kept upon the rails. The driver, after travelling a little distance, found out that the "pull" upon the engine was greatly reduced, and on looking round saw all the carriages off the line and in the greatest disorder. He stopped the engine immediately, and afterwards, so as to prevent a collision, steamed down to Oxenholme. While this was being done, a messenger was dispatched in the Carlisle direction to keep back all the trains proceeding south. On looking through the carriages at the scene of the accident, it was found that the bulk of the passengers had been shaken, and that five of them had been seriously injured. They were conveyed to Oxenholme, temporarily attended to by a doctor there, and thence sent on to Kendal. Some new rails are being laid where the accident happened, and, owing to the recent damp weather, it is supposed that the packing of some of the sleepers had become loose and caused them to give way. Men from Carlisle and Preston were sent to replace the carriages and make good the road. The mail was delayed between three and four hours.

DEATH FROM STARVATION AND NEGLECT.—An inquiry was held, on Tuesday evening, by Mr. Humphreys, at the Adam and Eve Tavern, Homerton, respecting the death of Susan Rice, aged fifty-six years. For some time past deceased occupied a small room at No. 2, Upper Prospect-place, Homerton. She was very poor, and all that she had to support herself with was 1s. 6d. a week, 4lb. of bread, and a little tea and sugar, which the Hackney workhouse authorities allowed her every Tuesday. Charlotte Cheney, landlady of the deceased, deposed that she often said to her, "All that I want is food." On Saturday "she began to die," and the parish doctor was sent for. By his order she was put into a cab, and while she was being driven through the old Hackney-churchyard she groaned, fell back, and died. Her body was then driven on to the workhouse. No relieving officer ever visited her while she was in receipt of parish relief. Dr. Garvis deposed that when he was called to see the woman he found her in a dirty, filthy condition, lying down. Pigstyes are better kept than that woman's room was, and that made him order her removal to the workhouse. A post-mortem examination proved that her stomach was empty, and that the immediate cause of death was diseased heart. The foreman said—Our verdict is, "That the deceased died from sheer neglect and starvation, and that her death from disease of the heart from natural causes would not have taken place if she had been visited by the relieving officer and removed, before she was in a dying state, to the workhouse; and we are also of opinion that the relieving officer ought to visit the destitute poor when they are in receipt of outdoor relief, and if it had been carried out in this case, life would have been saved."

INSUBORDINATION AT THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY.—A disturbance has occurred at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, resulting in the dismissal of three gentlemen cadets of the senior or commission class. It appears that at the close of the Royal Artillery Steeplechases, last week, some cadets were insulted by a number of roughs. The cadets, who had been drinking, retaliated by picking up some "Aunt Sally" sticks, which they hurled at their assailants, who ran off. Seeing a disturbance, a superintendent of police rode up and interfered, on which the cadets attempted to unhorse him. He reported the matter to the police commissioners, when a letter of complaint was sent to the Governor of the Royal Military Academy, who ordered an inquiry, which was opened last Saturday. Whilst the inquiry was going on, the gentlemen cadets were confined to the Academy inclosure. In the evening of that day several petty acts of annoyance were committed by some of the cadets, and one of the 9-pounder guns mounted on a travelling carriage standing on the parade facing the Academy was thrown into the moat which surrounds the inclosure. On Monday the inquiry was resumed. On Superintendent Griffin going to the Academy to identify the offenders, the cadets abused him, and made a prisoner of him by fastening him in a room by means of tables, &c., placed against the doors. He was released on the arrival of the Governor, Sir J. Simmons, K.C.B. The inquiry resulted in the Governor ordering three gentlemen cadets of the commission class to be removed from the Academy.

THE LONDON GAZETTE

FRIDAY, APRIL 9.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—W. GOTT, Leeds, printer.

BANKRUPTS.—E. E. CRESWELL and F. R. BURNETT, Leadenhall-street, shipbrokers.—A. W. MORGAN, Throgmorton-street, stockbroker.—J. SERGEANT, Notting-hill, builder.—C. BARTINDALE and G. PINDER, Whitby, saddlers.—C. BERRINGTON, Liverpool, fruiterer.—D. S. BOWERS, Macclesfield, labourer.—H. M. BRAZIL, Horwich, manufacturer of cotton goods.—C. BRAZIL, Preston, manufacturer of cotton goods.—J. D. BUSHELL, Fakenham, grocer.—J. DIVES, Ware, clerk.—R. E. DRAKE, Otterton, butcher.—J. HUNTLEY, Horns-menden, builder.—S. IRIN, Bolton, builder.—W. MIDDLETON, Middle Tysoe, farmer.—J. ROWLANDS, Nenadd Llanfagel, grocer.—W. WINSTANLEY and J. FORMBY, Liverpool, engineers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.—G. ALSING, Glasgow, musician.—J. CARLIN, Glasgow, cab proprietor.—J. DICK, Dundee, baker.—J. FORBES, Hilton, blacksmith.—A. HISLOP and CO., Edinburgh, printers.—G. LAIRD, Cupar, nurseryman.—W. M. PATON and E. J. GORDON, Dundee, merchants.—J. S. SCOTT and CO., Glasgow, house painters.—J. SMALL, Dundee, fisher.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—J. HIGEN, Northampton, bookseller.—G. S. ELLIS, Bloomsbury, butcher.

BANKRUPTS.—G. T. GOODBEHERE and G. T. GAINE, Cannon-street, hardwaremen.—E. JONES, Fenchurch-street, umbrella and boot salesman.—W. KERRIDGE, Notting-dale, builder.—J. PURSEY, Metropolitan Meat Market, meat salesman.—G. TERNENT, Bodington and St. Albans, draper.—T. HALL, Sheffield, grocer.—B. COWGILL, Barnley, ironworker.—J. HOTCROFT, Birmingham, bookseller.—T. McDOWALL, Sudbury, draper.—R. KIMPTON, Sheffield, builder.—T. H. PAGE, Tunbridge Wells.—E. WATKINSON, Wakefield.—C. TAYLOR, Newcastle-on-Tyne, chemical and colour manufacturer.

SCOTCH SEQUESTERATIONS.—J. MUIR, Edinburgh, builder.

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